



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



PennState Extension

Save the Date!

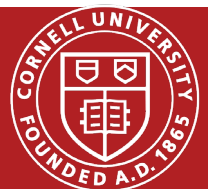
2020 LERGP Winter Growers' Conference
Thursday, March 19, 2020
William's Center at SUNY Fredonia

more information is available at:
<https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/>

Registration is open!

Crop Update - February 20, 2020

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

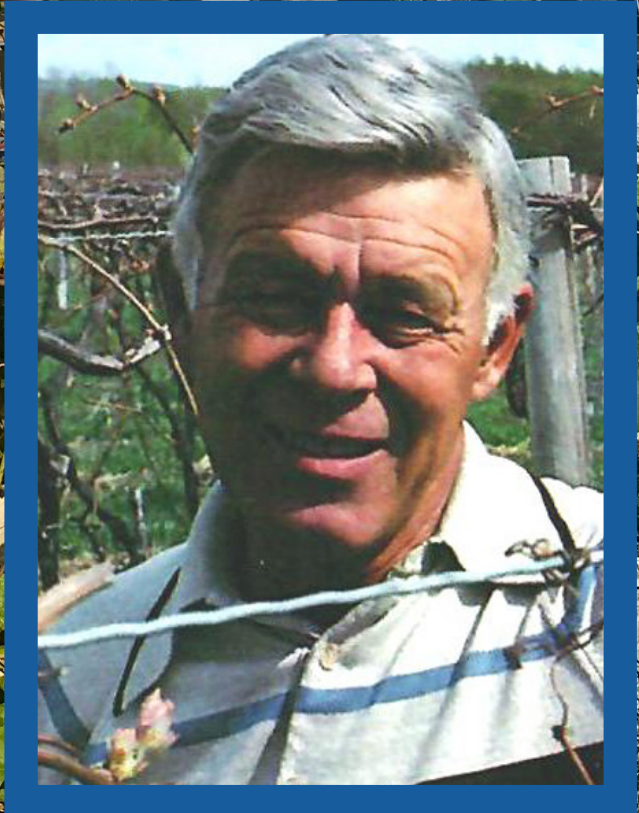


It is with great sadness that we write this heartfelt note of gratitude for two beloved and respected individuals that have passed recently. Everyone at LERGP would like to express their sympathy for the families of Richard “Rick” Dunst and Trenholm “Tren” Jordan. These men provided many dedicated years of expertise and enthusiasm to our grape culture and industry. Their efforts and achievements will be long remembered and revered.

A link to each of their obituaries is posted below.

<https://www.observe.today.com/obituaries/2020/02/richard-m-rick-dunst/>

<https://www.post-journal.com/obituaries/2020/02/trenholm-douglas-jordan-2/>



In this Crop Update: Reminders for Important Events

- **Are You Ready For Spring? - Jennifer Russo**
- **Labor Market: Completed Pruning Work - Kevin Martin**
- **New HOBO Station Update - Kim Knappenberger**
- **Paraquat Updates - Andy Muza**

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.

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2020 Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Growers' Conference
March 19, 2020
Williams Center
SUNY at Fredonia Campus

Agenda

7:00 AM	Tradeshow set up begins
7:30 AM	Registration and Tradeshow open
8:20 AM	Welcome
8:30 - 9:15 AM	Labor Trends and How Will Those Trends Affect Grape Farms in our Region <i>Richard Stup, Agricultural Workforce Specialist, Cornell University</i>
9:15 - 9:45 AM	Labor Cost in our Region <i>Kevin Martin, LERGP, Penn State University</i>
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Grape Pest Talk – Greg Loeb
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:15 AM	Spray Program Strategies to Avoid Resistance <i>Bryan Hed, LERGP, Penn State University</i>
11:15 – 11:45 AM	Pesticides, 2 ee's and Spotted Lanternfly <i>Andy Muza, LERGP, Penn State University</i>
11:45 – 12:15 PM	Fungal Pathogens Show Promise as IPM Spotted Lanternfly Management Strategies <i>Eric Clifton, Department of Entomology, Cornell University</i>
12:15 - 1:15 PM	Lunch and Visit Tradeshow
1:15 – 1.45 PM	Vineyard Weed Management Strategies <i>Lynn Sosnoskie, Department of Horticulture, Cornell University</i>
1:45 – 2:15 PM	Hyperspectral Sensors and Plant Pathogens <i>Kaitlin Gold, Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University</i>
2:15 – 2:45 PM	VitisGen2: New Technologies Accelerate Disease Resistant Cultivar Development <i>Lance Cadle-Davidson, USDA, Cornell University</i>
2:45 –3:15 PM	Cold Hardiness and Climate Change <i>Jason Londo, USDA, Cornell University</i>
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Understanding Soil & Petiole Tests and Vine Nutrition <i>Terry Bates, CLEREL, Cornell AgriTech, Cornell University</i>
4:00 PM	Adjourn

[Register Online here!](#)



LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

2020 GRAPE GROWERS' CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

SUNY Fredonia Williams Center

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Deadline for registration is Friday, March 6, 2020.

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 1 st attendee	\$ 50.00
Additional attendee on same farm	\$ 40.00
Non- member	\$100.00

Additional Attendees:

	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

*Please add a **\$25.00 late fee** for each reservation made after March 6, 2020

TOTAL \$ _____

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

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

Call Kate at 716-792-2800 ext 201 with any questions.

Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

Are You Ready for Spring?

We are coming out of our slow time during the season and taking advantage of the nice days this mild winter can go a long way to the efficiency in our vineyard operations. The growing season will be here before we know it, and I wanted to just get you all thinking about vineyard management. Weather and ground permitting, we should be out there finishing up pruning and walking our blocks making note of and attending to broken posts, vineyard floor pests that may hinder tractor use, tying, and cordon renewal.

Another thing I want to bring to your attention with the approaching growing season is to use this to check over and service your equipment. Most of us winterized our sprayer after harvest and it waits in storage for next season. Use this down time to conduct your sprayer maintenance, make sure it is up to date and that the tips are the right size. Having your equipment maintained and ready to go can go a long way to effectively get the spray coverage in your vineyard this spring and summer amongst our WNY inclement weather. Sprayer tips do not have an infinite life-span, they tend to wear out, leading to inefficiencies. Use this time to inspect, order and replace if necessary.

Order your chemicals and fertilizers; there are usually benefits to pre-ordering allowing the supplier to plan for adequate stock in certain chemical formulas.

Low Temps: Over the month of February thus far, some parts of the region received temperatures below zero (denoted in bold on the table below). Although temperatures dipped below zero in some areas they stayed above the bud damage threshold. A great resource to gain access to all weather information throughout the region is the NEWA website, <http://newa.cornell.edu/>.

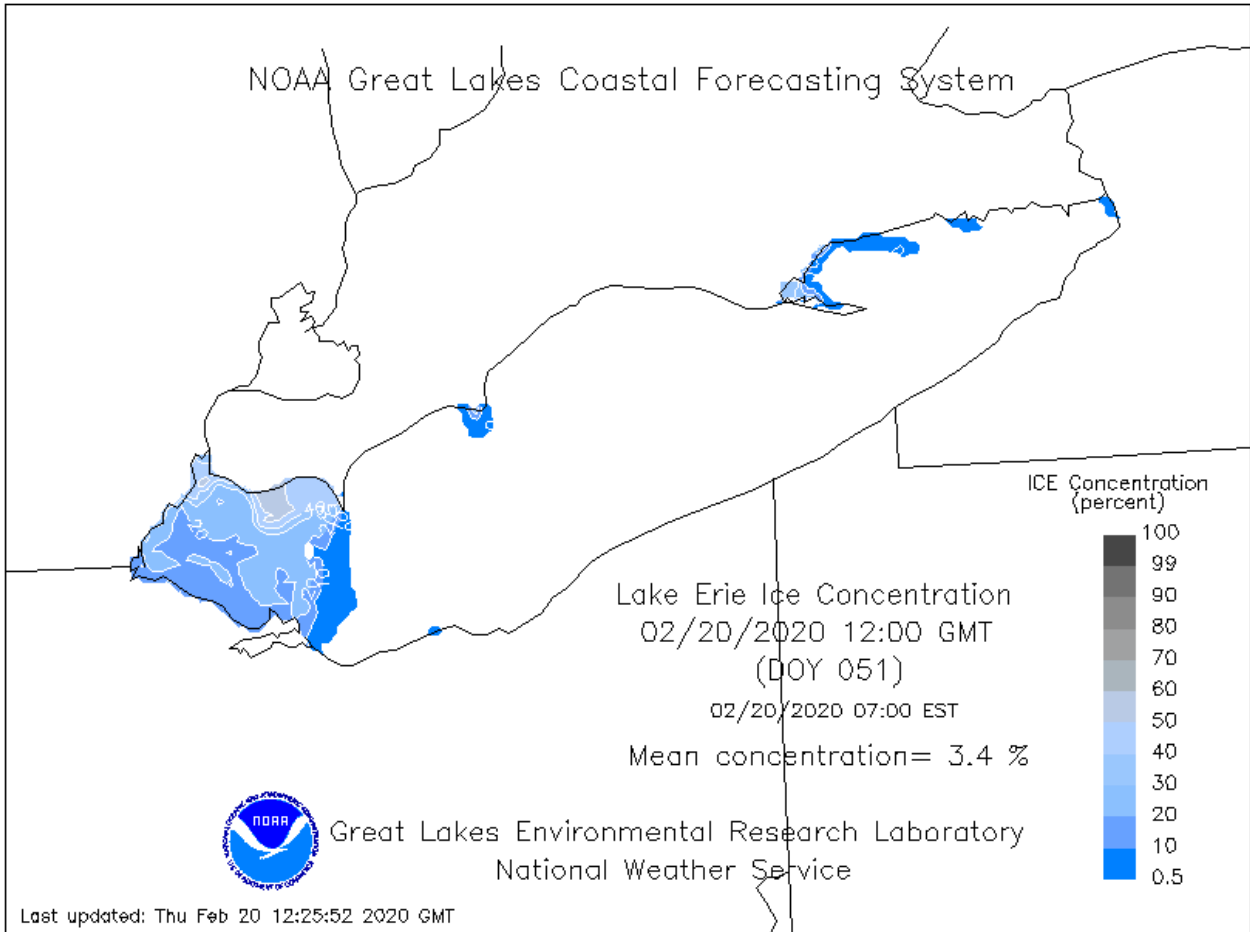
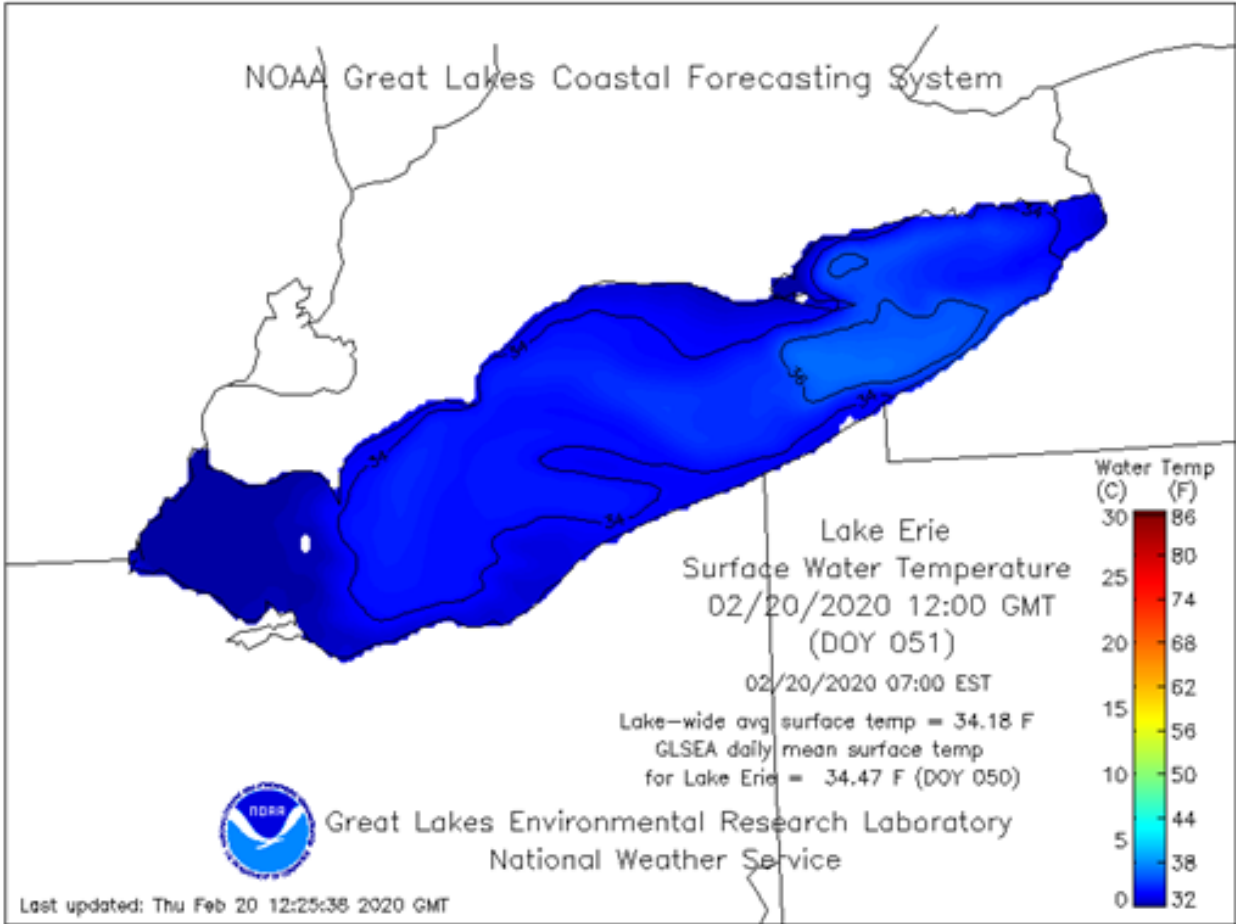
NEWA February Monthly Summary				
Weather	Ave Air	Max Air	Min Air	Total Precip
Station	Temp (°F)	Temp (°F)	Temp (°F)	(inches)
Lake City, PA	30.6	48.5	2.1	1.79
Haborcreek, PA	30.1	45.1	5.9	1.15
Haborcreek Escarpment, PA	28.6	49.2	1.7	1.33
North East Lab, PA	30.3	45.5	4.2	1.23
North East Escarpment, PA	29.2	51.3	4.2	1.54
North East Side Hill, PA	29.2	49.8	3.9	1.46
North East State Line, PA	28.9	50.0	6.1	1.53
Ripley	29.8	45.0	3.1	1.10

NEWA February Monthly Summary				
Ripley Escarpment	29.4	49.4	5.3	1.40
Ripley Stateline	30.0	45.5	5.5	1.16
Westfield	30.1	45.2	1.4	1.29
East Westfield	29.3	46.8	2.7	0.97
Portland CLEREL	29.2	44.7	3.5	1.55
Portland Escarpment	28.7	44.7	4.6	1.28
Brocton Escarpment	29.0	46.0	3.1	1.47
Dunkirk	30.4	45.0	-2.0	0.51
Fredonia	29.1	46.6	2.1	34.7
East Fredonia	29.1	44.2	0.2	1.32
Forestville	29.3	43.2	1.0	1.12
Sheridan	29.4	45.1	-3.0	1.29
Hanover	29.1	43.3	-0.9	1.18
Silver Creek	29.9	45.4	-0.8	1.05
Versailles	28.6	44.7	-9.9	1.61
Burt	28.5	43.9	5.9	33.4
Ransomville	28.4	44.3	4.2	1.03
North Appleton	28.7	43.7	5.9	0.68
Corwin	28.1	43.3	1.6	1.00

Bud Hardiness: The fifth batch of bud samples were run right here at CLEREL and the data was shared with our colleagues in Geneva, NY to be posted on the Bud Hardiness page. The table below shows the data for February 18, 2020. The graph shows the low spike from the cold event we received Valentine's weekend, which stayed clear of the damage threshold. To follow this information go to: <https://lergp.com/> and <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/extension/bud-hardiness-data/>

Level	Number	LT10	LT50	LT90	Minimum	Maximum
Concord	45	-11.52	-13.59	-17.40	-19.05	-10.08
Niagara	45	-12.43	-14.80	-16.55	-17.52	-11.33
Riesling	45	-4.90	-9.96	-12.94	-14.17	-2.69
Traminette	43	-8.09	-14.87	-17.86	-19.70	-6.18

Lake Erie Ice Cover: The warm weather that we have experienced this winter has kept the ice cover to 3.4% as of February 20, 2020. The warm water has helped to moderate our mild winter temperatures. The NOAA Great Lakes Coastal Forecasting System lake-wide average surface temp of 34.18 °F. For more lake information visit: <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/glcfs/ncast/eswt-00.gif>.



Business Management

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

Labor Market: Growers begin to see completed pruning work

Anecdotal reports indicate that the migrant labor market pool remains in short supply but close to adequate for completion of pruning but not renewal work before bud-break. Just a reminder, this stability is not adequate to provide most hand-labor throughout the dormant season. These anecdotal reports have been mixed. This is probably due to factors of mechanized replacement, cost and low unemployment rates.

Hand-pruning is barely competitive to mechanization with hand follow-up. Mechanized pre-pruning costs are gaining an advantage but remain held back by the difficulty of training efficient hand follow-up labor. Current immigration has found ways to attempt to aggressively decrease the labor pool of both legal and illegal immigrant supplies. While permanent programs are at risk, H2A programs are growing significantly. It seems that these programs would work very well for pre-pruning but add significant cost and complexity to the operation. Costs for hand follow-up H2A labor would be approximately 25 cents per vine, increasing at a rate of 5% per year.

Like all forms of farm labor costs are rising. Supply may be adequate to finish pruning without too much end of season chaos. However, it will not be done without crews pushing prices up about 2 cents per vine. Transition to hourly pay continues to increase and for the most part that translates to a higher per vine cost. In total average costs should exceed 31 cents per vine. We will see some growers in NY pay over 40 cents per vine after including benefits in the cost.

Now equally concerning for larger growers, may be the available pool of labor for other vineyard activities. Wage growth continues. This began about two years ago in the region and about 18 months ago nationwide. Businesses should plan for 3% - 4% increases in Pennsylvania for all labor paid less than \$18 per hour. NY regulations have grown that labor cost by 7% - 10% or more in the last few years. Assuming regulatory changes slow, the difference in cost increases between NY and PA will equalize in 2022.

Increases in bulk juice prices will temporarily assist in managing these labor costs. At the moment the bulk juice and wine market is not at all prepared to deal with such challenges. This is particularly concerning as we see consolidation of large farms that are now growing beyond 200 acres, toward 500 acres. Vineyards of these sizes require significantly more skilled labor than 100 – 200 acre vineyards. It is becoming increasingly clear that multiple FTEs are required to manage vineyards of this size.

Particularly concerning is the additional costs this adds to harvest for low priced bulk juice grapes. While unpaid labor can help shield the market from rising labor prices, the more intensive operation of harvest almost always requires a varying amount of paid labor. Long-term sustainability will require increasing harvest efficiency. The region will need less harvesters operating across more acres. Increasing labor costs will also accelerate the adoption of bulk harvesting technologies, which substantially lowers the cost of labor.

Labor and price were recently pushing total regional acreage down. At the moment the Concord market is keeping the industry in relatively good health as the wine industry works through surplus for the next few years. In the meantime, the constant improvement of labor efficiency will be essential to long-term sustainability.

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LERGP

2020 Coffee Pot Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Address
May 6, 2020	10:00am	John Mason Farm	8603 West Lake Rd. Lake City PA 16423
May 13, 2020	10:00am	Chess Farms	10289 W. Main Rd. Ripley NY 14775
May 20, 2020	10:00am	Nichols Farm	1906 Ridge Rd. Lewiston NY 14092
May 27, 2020	10:00am	Sprague Farm	12435 Versailles Plank Rd. Irving NY 14081
May 27, 2020	3:00pm	Szklenki Farm	8601 Slade Rd. Harbor Creek PA 16421
June 3, 2020	10:00am	Clover Hill Sales	10401 Sidehill Rd. North East PA 16428
June 3, 2020	3:00pm	Militello Farm Supply	2929 Rte 39 Forestville NY 14062
June 10, 2020	10:00am	Schneider/Martin Farm	771 Bradley Rd. Silver Creek NY 14136
June 10, 2020	3:00pm	Schulze Winery	2090 Coomer Rd. Burt NY 14028
June 17, 2020	10:00am	Luke Farm	1755 Cemetery Rd. North East PA 16428
June 24, 2020	10:00am	Hutchinson Farm	4720 W. Main Rd. Fredonia NY 14063
June 24, 2020	3:00pm	Laing Gro	8659 Depot St. Eden NY 14057
July 1, 2020	10:00am	Peter Smith	4472 Van Duesen Rd. Lockport NY 14094
July 8, 2020	10:00am	North East Fruit Growers	2297 Klomp Rd. North East PA 16428
July 15, 2020	10:00am	Olde Chautauqua Farm	6645 W. Main Rd. Portland NY 14769
July 22, 2020	10:00am	Paul Bencal Farm	2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville NY 14131
July 29, 2020	10:00am	Vetter Farm	12566 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081
August 5, 2020	10:00am	Fairplain Farm	8760 Old Lake Rd. Lake City PA 16423

PA Update

Andy Muza, LERGP Extension Educator, Penn State University

Paraquat Updates

The information below is a composite of Paraquat updates from a handout, "What's New for Agronomic Weed Control for 2020?" (Penn State Extension Agronomy Team) and from updated information recently received from Penn State's Pesticide Education Program.

Anyone using products that contain paraquat (i.e. Gramoxone and all other generic formulations) and that were released for shipment **after November 14, 2019** under the new labeling requirements must complete an **EPA-mandated training** before application. **EPA does have a provision that allows existing stocks of paraquat already in the channels of trade to be used according to the label directions affixed to the container until those supplies are exhausted.**

The following are items from the new label for paraquat products:

- Only certified applicators, who successfully completed the paraquat-specific training, can mix, load or apply paraquat
- No longer allow application "under the direct supervision" of a certified applicator; registered technicians cannot apply
- Restricts use of all paraquat products to certified applicators
- Applicators must repeat training every three years
- The EPA required video training is at the following link: <http://usparaquattraining.com> (users must create an account with user-name and password). For those who are unable to do the training online, in-person training resources for face-to-face group training are now available at <http://npsec.us/paraquat>.

In addition to the training, EPA stated that the Paraquat Phase 3 labels requiring the use of a closed transfer system were approved in December 2019. Any product released for shipment after December 30, 2019 must now have the Phase 3 label affixed to the container and manufacturers must have the closed transfer system in place by December 2020. The new Phase 3 labels now contain language that will: Restrict the sale and distribution of non-bulk paraquat containers (any container less than 120 gallons) unless they are equipped with a closed transfer packaging system. **Note:** The new closed system packaging will be designed so the product can only be directly transferred into the application equipment. Non-bulk containers will be fitted with a specially designed cap that cannot be removed or opened by hand. The latest labeling also prohibits jar testing and describes the process for specifically rinsing and disposing of empty closed-system containers.

NEWA

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP

Our New HOBO Weather Station

As promised in the last update, there's more to see of the new HOBO weather station from Onset! It seemed a little overwhelming when the station arrived in all of the separate boxes, but it really came together fairly easily. This station is located just a short distance from our Rainwise station at CLEREL. The configuration is what you can find recommended on the NEWA website ([Weather Stations tab – purchase a station](#)) where you can find information about both Rainwise and Onset products that are NEWA compatible.

This is a cellular unit, so it does not require close proximity to a building and internet capabilities. The cellular service for the first year is included in the purchase price and is a standard 4G plan that costs \$250 (approx. \$21/month). There are options to also connect with Ethernet or Wi-Fi, but we wanted to try the cellular plan.



As you can see in the pictures, each of the components is attached to the pole separately and plugs into the data logger independently. Configuring the vast amount of wires proved to be a bit of a challenge, but not impossible. Onset sent quite a few zip ties to help keep everything organized and close to the pole. Currently it is equipped with sensors to measure: temperature and relative humidity, wind speed and direction, precipitation, solar radiation, and leaf wetness. In the spring we plan to install the soil moisture and soil temperature sensors.

At the time of writing this article the data is not being reported on the NEWA website, although we expect it to be added soon. This is just another option available for a NEWA compatible weather station. If you want to learn more about them visit the website linked above, or come take a look!





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Cornell Cooperative Extension

Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program

swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu

A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben.

CORE Pesticide Training & NYSDEC Exam

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- PRE-REGISTER 3 DAYS PRIOR TO DESIRED EVENT -

Register by calling: Kelly Bourne at 585-268-7644 ext. 10 or email at klb288@cornell.edu or sign up online at: <https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>

For event information contact: Josh Putman, Field Crops Specialist, at 716-490-5572 or jap473@cornell.edu.

Workshop cost: \$20/person

Checks payable to: SWNYDLFC

Pay by card through online registration.

Please plan to bring your own lunch as it will NOT be provided.

Training classes will be held on:

Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 8:30AM - 12PM

CCE-Chautauqua @ JCC-Carnahan Center
241 James Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14702

Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 8:30AM - 12PM

CCE-Steuben
20 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810

THE CERTIFICATION EXAM

Will be administered following each training from 1PM-4PM by DEC to qualified applicants.

Fee for the exam is \$100.

Checks or money orders payable to NYSDEC the day of the exam.

To register for the exam, or for exam related questions, please contact:

Rob Freese (Jamestown event) at 716-851-7275 or
Chris Wainwright (Bath event) at 607-622-8264.

You MUST pre-register for the exam!

All participants will need to have the most recent CORE manual and applicable category manuals.

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

3.0 Pesticide recertification credits in the CORE category have been applied for.

Participants looking to receive their applicators license must have experience working on their own farm, or through employment on another farm. **Participants must register directly with DEC to take the exam!**

If you have any questions on exam eligibility they will be answered by DEC representatives.

This training DOES NOT qualify for the 30 hour pre-test commercial training.

The SWNY Dairy, Livestock & Fields Crops Program offers educational programming and research based information to agricultural producers, growers, and agribusinesses. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and education recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individual with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. For accommodations, please contact Josh Putman 716-490-5572 or jap473@cornell.edu at least one week prior to the event.

Other links of interest:

[LERGP Web-site:](#)

[Cornell Cooperative Extension website:](#)

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

[Efficient Vineyard:](#)

[Appellation Cornell Newsletter:](#)

