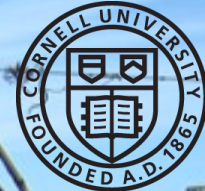


Cornell Cooperative Extension

Finger Lakes Grape Program



April 9th, 2020

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

In the Vineyard

Yes, there is something to talk about besides the corona virus. And frankly, it's a welcome change for a few minutes...

I don't think it would be a surprise statement to anybody who's been working out in the vineyards lately (while maintaining a 6' force field around them) that a lot of signs are pointing towards an early budbreak this year. The Marquette vines at the Teaching Vineyard near Dresden, which are the first ones to start moving each year, have been shedding their bud scales and are just starting to swell this week (see photo). For the past two years, our official budbreak in Marquette has been around May 5, but given the conditions this past winter (lots of chilling hour accumulation) and early spring (warmer and dry conditions), it seems likely that we will be seeing these vines hit that stage before the end of the month.

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So what are some of the implications of early budbreak?

- The biggest one that comes to mind is an increase in the potential for frost injury. A number of growers have been investing in wind machines in recent years, which can be very effective if they are properly sited and operated under the right conditions (calm conditions with enough of a temperature difference between the ground and air aloft).
- In a few recent seasons, we have seen an early burst of warmth start to push buds out, and then cool, cloudy conditions return and halt any further development of the buds for a little while. This leaves them in a state where they could be susceptible to early season pests like [steely beetle](#) or [climbing cutworm](#). In most years, these pests do not cause significant damage and are fairly localized, but shoots that remain at the budswell through post-budbreak period remain susceptible to feeding.
- Tying gets more complicated. As the new buds emerge and begin to grow, their connection to the cane gradually weakens and it gets easier to knock some off when tying canes down, which could impact yields and vine balance if enough of them get rubbed off.
- Early season sprays need to be ready to go. Phomopsis control for many varieties, especially those on high wire systems and/or with more older wood (e.g., cordons), begins as early as 3" of shoot growth, once the young clusters are first exposed. Be sure that you have the proper materials on hand and that [your sprayer has been calibrated properly](#) before pulling it out for that first spray of the season.

Does an early budbreak mean that bloom will be early? Not necessarily. The time from budbreak to bloom is influenced by the weather conditions during that period. So a stretch of cool cloudy weather after budbreak can slow down shoot growth and could result in bloom being closer to average.

Horseweed: Biology, Ecology and Control

Lynn Sosnoskie, Assistant Professor of Weed Science, Cornell AgriTech

Horseweed, also called marestail, (*Conyza canadensis*) is an annual weed in the sunflower family (Asteraceae) that is native to North America and widely distributed throughout most temperate regions of the world. The species is regularly found along roadsides and fence rows, in fallow fields or reduced-tillage crops, and berry, apple and grape systems.

Seedlings emerge from soil depths of less than 0.5 inches in both the fall and spring (occasionally summer). Cotyledons and young leaves are egg- to oval-shaped. Mature leaves are produced in rosettes and are linear (up to 4 inches long) tapered at the base, hairless to hairy, and irregularly toothed or scalloped around the margins (Figure 1). Plants begin to bolt (i.e. stems begin to elongate) starting in spring and mostly grow to heights of 2 to 6 feet, although they can certainly get taller (Figure 2). Stems are hairy. Horseweed stems branch near the apex producing dense panicles of small (< 0.5 inches), daisy-like flowers beginning in mid-summer-summer (Figure 3). Robust plants can produce up to 200,000 thousand seed, each. Individual seed possess a collection of white hairy bristles (called a pappus) that facilitate wind dispersal tens to hundreds of miles across the landscape. Please see the following website for more details: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/weedid/field-crops/horseweed/>.

In the US, resistance has been confirmed in horseweed to several different herbicide active ingredients including rimsulfuron ('Matrix' - WSSA Group 2), simazine ('Princep' - WSSA Group 5), diuron ('Karmex' - WSSA Group 7), glyphosate ('Roundup' and others - WSSA Group 9) and paraquat ('Gramoxone' - WSSA Group 22). In New York, Dr. Bryan Brown has preliminarily identified horseweed resistant to WSSA Groups 2, 5 and 9. In 2020 and 2021, Cornell University will be conducting an extensive screening program to identify and describe the distribution of herbicide resistant weeds in the state. If you suspect that you have herbicide-resistant horseweed in your vineyard, please contact Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie (ims438@cornell.edu) or Hans Walter-Peterson about having a seed sample collected from your site.

With respect to management, there are several pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicide active ingredients available to growers. Soil-applied products with efficacy against horseweed include indaziflam ('Alion'), flumioxazin ('Chateau') and rimsulfuron ('Matrix'); foliar-applied options include glufosinate ('Rely') and paraquat (especially if glyphosate resistance is suspected). To achieve optimum residual control, pre-emergence products must be applied before any seedlings start to emerge. Post-emergence products, especially those lacking systemic activity, are more effective on smaller plants. Always review labels to familiarize yourselves with all recommendations and restrictions regarding safe and effective use. Young horseweed is sensitive to disturbance and small rosettes can be controlled using physical strategies. As plants get larger (especially following bolting), control success from cultivation, hand-weeding or mowing will be reduced.

Horseweed: Biology, Ecology and Control (continued from page 2)



Figure 1. Horseweed leaves are wider at the tip, weakly toothed and arranged in a rosette.



Figure 2. Horseweed bolting, a.k.a. stem elongation



Figure 3. Horseweed flowers

Pesticide handlers who received fit tests in 2019 may qualify for automatic recertification for 2020

The following article comes from the NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) regarding the temporary exemption for respirator fit testing this year for certain people due to the COVID-19 crisis. I asked Chris Wainwright with DEC if any other provisions of the Worker Protection Standards have been temporarily changed and he said that he is not aware of any beyond the fit testing requirement. - Hans

The Worker Protection Standard requirement of annual respirator fit testings for agricultural workers who handle pesticides may be deferred for some in 2020, according to a representative of the the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This is in response to the increased risk of spreading Coronavirus during respirator fit testings and the urgent need of preserving fit-testing resources for health professionals.

As a result, the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) will be cancelling many of its upcoming respirator fit-testing clinics scheduled throughout the state. NYCAMH's supply of N95 masks are also greatly limited due to national shortages, as these are rerouted to frontline healthcare staff.

The DEC is currently waiting for additional guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the issue of temporarily adjusting WPS regulations in the wake of the pandemic.

Who is Temporarily Exempt?

The DEC's Bureau of Pesticides Management announced it will recognize pesticide handlers that were fit-tested during the 2019 season as meeting WPS requirements for the 2020 season with some exceptions. This discretion will not extend beyond the 2020 season, and handlers are encouraged to get fit-tested as soon as resources allow, said Anthony Lamanno, Section Chief of the DEC's Pesticide Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Section.

This discretion does not apply to handlers who have gained or lost 20 pounds or more or who have had dental/face surgery since their last fit test. Handlers that were not fit-tested during the 2019 season also will not be covered by this discretion, said Lamanno.

According to the EPA Worker Protection Standard, any agricultural worker applying a pesticide must comply with pesticide label specifications regarding respirator use. (The pesticide label will specify if a respirator is required and, if so, which type is needed.) OSHA requires that an annual fit test be performed with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator before it is used that year. In addition to the fit test, a pesticide applicator must be trained and medically cleared to ensure there are no health risks to an individual working and wearing a respirator. Farms must keep records of employee fit-tests for up to two years.

NYCAMH has added a COVID-19 page to its website—www.nycamh.org—to provide agricultural employers and workers with information and resources related to worker health and safety issues and the disease. It includes information and resources for Spanish-speaking workers.

H-2A Update: Emergency Job Orders and Resources for New Employer Applicants

Given the current agricultural workforce challenge presented by COVID-19, many farmers are scrambling to find employees. The federal and state agencies involved with H-2A recognize the problem and are allowing farm employers to file emergency applications to participate in the program. This is a strategy worth consideration but it will not solve every problem, pandemic-related travel restrictions and limited visa services in some countries are preventing some H-2A workers from entering the U.S. to get to their jobs.

The following guidance was provided by the U.S. Department of Labor:

#3. Employers can file for an emergency H-2A order due to the pandemic.

QUESTION: Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, my business has a critical need for H-2A workers to perform agricultural labor or services. However, I do not have sufficient time to prepare all required documentation in order to file a completed job order with the State Workforce Agency and H-2A application with OFLC within the regulatory filing timeframes. Can I file an emergency H-2A application with OFLC?

ANSWER: Yes. Under 20 CFR 655.134, the OFLC Certifying Officer may waive the time period for filing for employers who did not make use of temporary alien agricultural workers during the prior year's agricultural season or for any employer that has other good and substantial cause, provided that the Certifying Officer has sufficient time to test the domestic labor market on an expedited basis to make the determinations required by 20 CFR 655.100. Good and substantial cause may include the substantial loss of U.S. workers due to weather-related activities or other reasons, unforeseen events affecting the work activities to be performed, pandemic health issues, or similar conditions. Therefore, for employers whose business operations are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, OFLC considers this situation to qualify as good and substantial cause and, if these employers are unable to meet the regulatory filing timeframes, they should request a waiver of the regulatory filing timeframe for this reason under 20 CFR 655.134. 8 An employer that requests a waiver of the regulatory filing timeframe must submit a statement describing the good and substantial cause necessitating the waiver request, a completed Application for Temporary Employment Certification (Form ETA-9142A and appendices), a completed H-2A Agricultural Clearance Order (Form ETA-790/790A and addendums), and all applicable documentation meeting the requirements of 20 CFR 655.130- 133. See 20 CFR 655.134(b). To ensure delivery of the highest quality customer service, OFLC strongly encourages all employers and their authorized attorneys or agents to electronically prepare and file emergency H-2A job orders and applications using the OFLC FLAG system.

Resources for First-time H-2A Employer Applicants

H-2A is a complicated program and it's not for everyone. Among other things, employers must provide certified housing free of charge, pay for transportation into and out of the country, and pay the H-2A minimum wage (AEWR). Watch this [20-minute video](#) if you are unfamiliar with the program. Following are resources to help you get started if you want to pursue applying for H-2A workers.

- NYS Dept of Labor's Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs (DIPA) is your first point of contact for H2-A in New York and offers many resources. You will also find a list of DIPA contacts at this website: <https://labor.ny.gov/immigrants/foreign-labor-certification-unit/h-2a.shtm>.
- DIPA provides a list of agents who can help with the H2-A application process here: <https://labor.ny.gov/formsdocs/dipa/fl6.pdf>
- USDA offers the Farmers.gov website: <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>
- The U.S. Dept of Labor (USDOL) administers the H-2A program: <https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/h-2a.cfm>
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) controls the issuing of visas for guest workers: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-2a-temporary-agricultural-workers>

Information about the CARES Act for Farms

Kevin Martin, Farm Business Management Specialist, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

As a response to COVID – 19, the federal government passed the CARES Act. This is the second piece of legislation passed in response. The first was for health related issues. This legislation is an attempt to hold up an economy that has been virtually shut down. It is important to keep the legislative purpose in mind when trying to fit yourself into the economic benefits of the law. Without the food system we cannot eat, a virus no matter how benign or serious, isn't relevant if there is no food. Agriculture has not been shut down. That means, for the most part, this law was not designed for farm businesses. That doesn't mean farm businesses cannot benefit, it just means it feels more like a square peg in a round hole.

There are about 5 key highlights to the bill. A 2.2 trillion dollar spending bill means there will be other programs of significance that get lost in the details. There is just not enough time yet to research and cover all aspects of the bill. \$1,200 for everyone! Not exactly everyone, of course. The bill doesn't include children, dependents, and phases out above certain income levels. Children (or their parents) get \$500. The benefits phase out at \$75,000 for singles and \$150,000 for couples. Payments will also be made to people that did not file income taxes. For example, SSI recipients will receive payments automatically, even if they did not file a return. Others that didn't file and don't receive SSI will need to file a tax return to get a payment.

Unemployment Insurance

A few changes were made to unemployment. Payments will be \$600 a week extra through the end of July. Farmers are eligible to collect unemployment benefits if they have been affected by Covid-19 and are unable to work. This does not require a diagnosis of Covid-19. Most relevant to agriculture, contract employees (1099) will also be eligible for unemployment. This could impact small business Ag Service providers. With the extra payments there is some concern that it will be more difficult to recruit labor as well. Hopefully those concerns are misplaced. Individuals should realize that this is no time to give up a job in exchange for \$10,000 between now and July. There is a real possibility that jobs will not be available in August. This chart of unemployment filings is a great illustration of the economy (jobs) turning off. If individuals in or related to your operation are looking for temporary layoffs and that labor is needed; make sure they understand the precarious nature of this economy. On the other hand, if you or your family members are part of the massive layoffs; the extra \$600 a week will be extremely helpful. Nearly 10 million individuals have applied for unemployment from March 14th – March 28th.

Information about the CARES Act for Farms (continued from page 6)

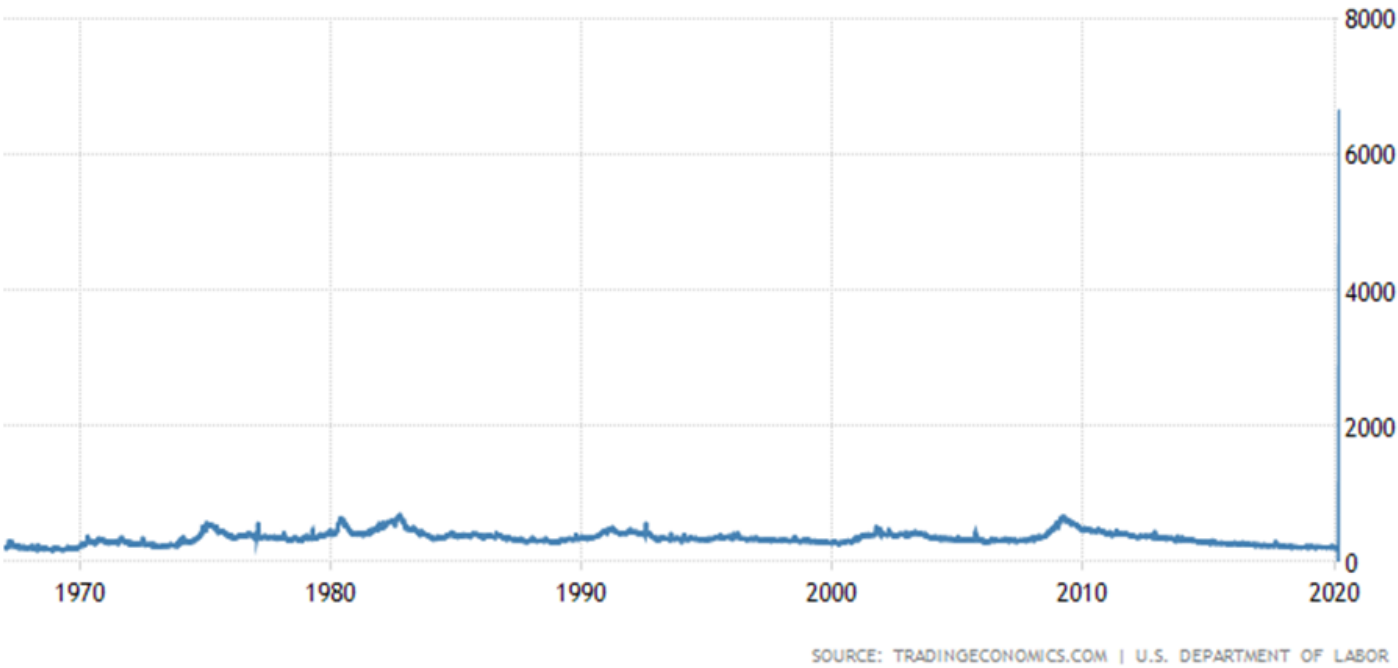


Figure 1: The scale of people applying for unemployment benefits is historical. The number the past two weeks are so high, the graph is essentially broken. The worst losses in history were just over 600,000 in a single week. Now they're over 6 million

Payroll Protection Program

The PPP is a loan program for all small businesses (less than 500 employees). **Borrowers must certify that their business has been affected by the coronavirus slowdown.** Credit scores are part of the application process but banks will not require any collateral. The size of the loan is capped at average monthly payroll times 2.5. Date ranges for calculating payroll are different for seasonal businesses and new firms. Any of the loan used for certain business expenses will be forgiven. These expenses must all be incurred in the first eight weeks of the loan. Borrowers that show expenses related to payroll, mortgage interest, rent or utilities will have the loans forgiven within 60 days of submitting the request.

Typical Loan Amount

Total payroll: \$100,000

Average Monthly Payroll: \$8300

Maximum Loan: \$20,800

Mortgage Interest, Payroll, Rent and Utilities (April 15 – June 10): \$17,200

Total Principal Remaining: \$4,600

Interest: \$170 or less

Information about the CARES Act for Farms (continued from page 7)

Employee Retention Credit

As an alternative to a loan a more generous Employee Retention Tax Credit was established. Businesses have to choose one program or the other. The ERC requires that businesses had operations fully or partially suspended during 2020 OR experience a 50% decline in gross revenue for the 2nd quarter of 2020. The credit is 50% of qualified wages, including health plan expenses. Eligible Employers may claim the Employee Retention Credit for qualified wages that they pay after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021. The credits are fully refundable. That is to say that a firm may get a refund if the amount of the credit is more than certain federal employment taxes the Eligible Employer owes.

Reducing gross revenue in the second quarter of 2020 will be very difficult for grape growers that usually do not realize revenue in the 2nd quarter unless the Cooperative pays them. Cooperative payments have been healthy (great news!) so a massive reduction in revenue is unlikely.

USDA Funding

USDA funding was also increased as a result of this legislation. Funding was earmarked toward a number of specific programs. \$14 billion was allocated to replenish the commodity credit corporation. Another 9.5 billion was earmarked for livestock and specialty crop producers that were most impacted by COVID-19. Existing USDA programs like conservation also received funding.

Paid Sick Leave Refundable Credit

This is a two-part program that includes both paid sick leave and an expansion of family medical leave act. Most importantly, this expansion includes employers with less than 50 employees. Exceptions for small businesses are complicated and not something I would recommend unless absolutely necessary. Most small businesses looking for hardship exceptions are hiring legal representation to minimize the risk of litigation. Also, all of this paid sick time is related to Covid-19, so it is a temporary program. All of the businesses paying Covid-19 leave will be reimbursed by the federal government.

The program requirements include central posting of the benefit. Compliant posters can be found here:

<http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2020/04/01/covid-19-employee-leave-and-farm-employers/>

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/Pandemic/FFCRA-Employee_Paid_Leave_Rights.pdf

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/Pandemic/FFCRA-Employee_Paid_Leave_Rights_SPANISH.pdf

- 1) the employee is under a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
- 2) the employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- 3) the employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;
- 4) the employee is caring for an individual who is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19, or has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;
- 5) the employee is caring for the child of such employee if the school or place of care of the child has been closed, or the child care provider of such child is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions;**
- 6) the employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rates of paid sick leave vary based on the category or reason for the absence. Very new or brand new employees are eligible for leave, depending on leave type.

Updates to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – Where the only constant is change!

Elizabeth Higgins, Ag Business Management Specialist Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Team and Nicole Tommell, Ag Business Specialist, Central NY Dairy Team

This article is a follow-up to an earlier one that my colleague, Liz Higgins, wrote about the PPP and how it applies to agricultural producers. This article includes some updates and changes since the program was rolled out late last week. I know many wineries and some growers have already applied for the program, but others may still be thinking about it. - Hans

Since Liz's last PPP article (was it only last Friday?), there have been some updates to the PPP and we are seeing it start to roll out across the state. This program has been extremely popular! The PPP is also first come first served, so we encourage farmers whose markets are looking iffy due to COVID-19 or who may be facing cash-flow problems this season to seriously consider applying soon. All loans need to be finalized by June 30, 2020, so time is of the essence and lenders will be very busy. Because of demand, it is likely that Congress will authorize another round of funding, so there is still an opportunity to participate if you are hearing rumors about the funding running out. Most businesses, including sole proprietors were eligible to apply as of April 3. Contractors and self-employed individuals without any employees are eligible to apply starting on April 10th.

Each business can only receive 1 PPP loan, so you should think through your farm's cash-flow needs this season for payroll, rent, utilities and mortgage interest and budget accordingly. The maximum loan amount your business can receive is calculated as 2.5 x your monthly average payroll expense in 2019 – up to \$10 million. A suggestion from a lender, as a rule of thumb for thinking about your loan size, is to take your payroll for 1 month, multiply that by 2.5 and then by 25%. This will help you ballpark what you should ask for.

What is also attractive about this program, that maybe wasn't clear enough in earlier outreach publications, is that sole proprietors (which includes LLCs that are not organized as corporations), contractors and the self-employed (with no employees) can use their net farm income (the net income in their 2019 Schedule F or Schedule C, depending on the business) towards the owner's "wages" for the purpose of this program, up to the \$100,000 salary limit. This program could be a huge help to small farm businesses, like many of our regions CSAs and farms who sell to restaurants or do agritourism, who anticipate a decline in revenue this year!

This program is a bit of a land rush. If you want to participate, you will need to be persistent and keep trying to find a lender to work with. Not all lenders are participating in the program yet, and some are limited in how many loans they can handle. Check with all of the banks you have a relationship with, including a deposit relationship as most banks are requiring that your farm has at least a checking account with them to get started. Also, when you go to a bank, you need to have all of your information ready. Look at the sample application on SBA's website to get a sense of what documentation you will need. <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form--paycheck-protection-program-borrower-application-form>. Check out your bank's website to see what information they have up as some banks have additional forms they want completed. We looked at a few bank websites and the PPP is generally listed under "Business Banking".

New Information and Changes

The SBA did issue an interim rule for the program (https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/PPP--IFRN%20FINAL_0.pdf) and a new FAQ has been released, dated April 6, 2020 (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>), which helps to provide some additional guidance to the program.

The biggest change from initial information was the interest rate increased from .5% to 1%. The interim rule also made it clear that the amount of the loan that can be forgiven for utility, rent and mortgage interest payments is capped at 25%, 75% must go towards eligible payroll expenses. Still, not a bad deal overall, even for the portion that isn't forgiven – at 1% interest, with no fees, and 100% federal guarantee, you would be hard pressed to get more favorable terms on a loan.

[Go to Top](#)

Updates to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – Where the only constant is change!

You will not have to make any payments for six months following the date of disbursement of the loan. However the interim guidance makes it clear that interest will continue to accrue on PPP loans during this six-month deferment.

I had some questions from folks about whether only US citizens are eligible for the loans from groups that work with refugee and immigrant farmers. Anyone eligible for SBA 7(a) loans is eligible for this program, and there are some additional groups that can participate in the PPP program, like non-profits. So, refugees, green card holders and other folks who are in the US legally can participate in this program. Eligibility for the 7(a) program can be found <https://www.sba.gov/document/sop-50-10-5-lender-development-company-loan-programs>.

There are some grey areas still. For loan forgiveness the PPP requires you to maintain the same number of positions (based on full time equivalents (FTE)) as last year, but there is no definition of the number of hours in an FTE. Based on other sections of the CARES Act and other federal programs, it would be reasonable to assume that 30 hours is the FTE rate, and many groups that are educating their members about the program are using that number, but that has not been clarified by SBA. Because loan forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels knowing your initial FTE is important. Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time headcount declines, or if salaries and wages decrease.

Another grey area is whether or not the salaries of H2A workers who meet the resident alien test would be eligible. The language only says that payroll does not include “Any compensation of an employee whose principal place of residence is outside of the United States”, but principle place of residence is not defined. One test for this could potentially be federal income tax filing requirements for resident vs non-resident. This is TBD, but most lenders right now will probably NOT include H2A in your monthly payroll estimate.

There are differences between what is counted in payroll costs (from 2019) to determine the size of the loan and what is counted in eligible payroll costs for use of the loan funds in 2020. Excluded from payroll costs in the interim rule for both the loan size calculation and from loan payments are:

- Any compensation of an employee whose principal place of residence is outside of the United States; so your employees who are not US citizens but whose principle place of residence is the US would likely be eligible. This would seem to exclude most H2A workers, but there are some H2A workers who meet the IRS test as a resident alien, so there are some grey areas. One test for this could be federal income tax filing requirements for resident vs non-resident alien. This is TBD, but most lenders will probably NOT include H2A in your monthly payroll estimate right now.
- The compensation of an individual employee in excess of an annual salary of \$100,000, prorated as necessary. This includes the incomes of sole proprietors on the schedule C or F above \$100,000.

These expenses can be used to calculate the loan amount, but loan dollars cannot be used to pay these costs in 2020:

- Federal employment taxes imposed or withheld between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020, including the employee’s and employer’s share of FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) and income taxes required to be withheld from employees (for reimbursement – basically the feds aren’t going to pay your taxes for you); and
- Qualified sick and family leave wages for which a credit is allowed under sections 7001 and 7003 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127) (this would be double-dipping).

Average monthly payroll cost is equal to:

- Gross wages and salary paid to employees (not including any payments to independent contractors) for all of 2019. Cap this at \$100,000 per employee.
- For sole proprietors, the “wages” for the owner(s) would be their net farm income on their Schedule F or Schedule C, capped at \$100,000, per Schedule F or Schedule C. So, if you are a married couple filing jointly with one Schedule F, the income cap for owner wages would most likely be \$100,000 for both of you.
- Payments for vacation, parental, family, medical or sick leave for all employees.
- Allowance for dismissal or separation.
- Payment for group medical insurance.

Updates to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – Where the only constant is change!

- Payments of retirement benefits (from the business).
- Payment of state or local tax assessed on employees.
- Reduce this sum by the amount paid to any employee whose principal place of residence is outside the US. (you do not remove your expenses for their workman's comp or disability insurance or benefits).

For purposes of calculating "Average Monthly Payroll," most applicants will use the average monthly payroll for 2019, excluding costs over \$100,000 on an annualized basis for each employee. For seasonal businesses, the Applicant may elect to instead use average monthly payroll for the time period between February 15, 2019 and June 30, 2019, excluding costs over \$100,000 on an annualized basis for each employee. For new businesses, average monthly payroll may be calculated using the time period from January 1, 2020 to February 29, 2020, excluding costs over \$100,000 on an annualized basis for each employee.

Reliable Resources for Spanish- & English-Speaking Farmworkers about COVID-19

By Libby Eiholzer, CCE Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team, and Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading rapidly across the world. Although cities have the most sick people, the disease has reached rural communities of New York as well. Everyone needs to take this very seriously. Agriculture is an essential business, so many of us will continue to go to work. However, we all need to take precautions to stay safe and help prevent further spread of the disease. The key things to do are limit contact with other people and keep everything very clean. We've prepared a new resource to help Spanish- and English-speaking farm employees access credible, multi-lingual information that they can use right away. The document appears in English and Spanish and the content is the same, we will keep both documents up to date during the present COVID-19 crisis. Access these and other resources here (<https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>) or link directly below.

[COVID-19 Reliable Resources for Farmworkers – Spanish](#)

[COVID-19 Reliable Resources for Farmworkers – English](#)

Thanks to Lisa Ford of Cayuga Marketing and Anna Meyerhoff of NYCAMH for their input on this new resource.

Upcoming Events

Don't forget to check out the calendar on our website (<http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/events.php>) for more information about these and other events relevant to the Finger Lakes grape industry.



“Virtual” Spring Grape IPM Meeting

Tuesday, May 5

4:30 – 6:00 PM

On a computer screen near you

Have no fear, the spring IPM meeting is still on. While we won't be able to gather in person for this year's meeting and dinner afterwards, this year's meeting will still feature some of our local experts to give growers information as they prepare to begin the 2020 season. The DEC has approved the meeting for 1.5 recertification credits, and we will be working with them to tailor our online meeting this year to still allow growers to receive credit for participating.

More details will be coming soon, but be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 5. I hope many of you will still be able to join us for this year's meeting.

2020 GDD & Precipitation

FLX Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard – Dresden, NY					
Date	Hi Temp (F)	Lo Temp (F)	Rain (inches)	Daily GDDs	Total GDDs
4/2/2020	51.9	33.2	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/3/2020	44.4	37.1	0.03	0.0	0.0
4/4/2020	52.6	42.1	0.01	0.0	0.0
4/5/2020	56	40.5	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/6/2020	56.9	35.9	0.00	0.0	0.0
4/7/2020	60.5	42.6	0.07	1.6	1.6
4/8/2020	55.3	43.3	0.00	0.0	1.6
Weekly Total			0.11"	1.6	
Season Total			0.11"	1.6	

GDDs as of April 8, 2019: 11.4

Rainfall as of April 8, 2019: 0.44"



Seasonal Comparisons (at Geneva)

Growing Degree Days

	2020 GDD ¹	Long-term Avg GDD ²	Cumulative days ahead (+)/behind (-) ³
April	0.6	63.8	
May		254.4	
June		480.2	
July		643.6	
August		592.2	
September		358.3	
October		110.0	
TOTAL		2502.6	

¹ Accumulated GDDs for each month.

² The long-term average (1973-2019) GDD accumulation for that month.

³ Numbers at the end of each month represent where this year's GDD accumulation stands relative to the long-term average. The most recent number represents the current status

Precipitation

	2020 Rain ⁴	Long-term Avg Rain ₅	Monthly deviation from avg ⁶
April	0.23"	2.83	
May		3.16	
June		3.60	
July		3.42	
August		3.23	
September		3.53	
October		3.42	
TOTAL		23.19	

⁴ Monthly rainfall totals up to current date

⁵ Long-term average rainfall for the month (total)

⁶ Monthly deviation from average (calculated at the end of the month)

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

April 9th, 2020

Additional Information

Become a fan of the [Finger Lakes Grape Program on Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter \(@cceflgp\)](#) as well as YouTube. Also check out our website at <http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu>.

Got some grapes to sell? Looking to buy some equipment or bulk wine? List your ad on the [NY Grape & Wine Classifieds website](#) today!

Finger Lakes Grape Program Advisory Committee

Eric Amberg- Grafted Grapevine Nursery

Bill Dalrymple- Dalrymple Farm

Matt Doyle- Doyle Vineyard Management

Eileen Farnan- Barrington Cellars

Chris Gerling- Cornell University Extension

Luke Haggerty- Constellation Brands

Tina Hazlitt- Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Cameron Hosmer- Hosmer Winery

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Harry Humphreys- Overlook Farms

Gregg McConnell- Farm Credit East

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

Hans Walter-Peterson—Team Leader

Donald Caldwell—Viticulture Technician

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

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