



# LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM

## *Electronic Crop Update for October 4, 2012*

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OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO  
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Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/EventsCalendar.htm> for a detailed calendar of events including maps via Google calendar! Scroll to the bottom of the page for Google calendar and click on the event. Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one! UPCOMING EVENTS are also listed toward the bottom of this Electronic Update.

Please remember to let us know if you have changed or are in the process of changing your email address so we can keep the Electronic Crop Update coming to your inbox!

[Please email Edith at: emb35@cornell.edu.](mailto:emb35@cornell.edu)

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**FROM NORTH EAST, PA.: Bryan Hed**

**Weather:** We accumulated 388 growing degree days during September, which is below average at our location. We have recorded 4.27 inches of rain during September at our location, also below average. Currently we have accumulated 2882 growing degree days (gdds) from March 1 through October 3, with a little over a half inch of rain during the first 3 days of October. The short term Skybit forecast for North East PA (Thursday through Saturday) calls for dry conditions today (Oct 4) with a high around 72, followed by light rain Friday night with high temperatures dropping to around 60 F. Rain will continue into Saturday morning with a high temperature around 50. The longer term Accuweather forecast calls for dry conditions for early next week with cooler than average temperatures, followed by chance for rain by mid-week.

Our Cabernet Franc has now been harvested from our NE1020 variety trial, and all that remains are late varieties like Chambourcin and Vidal.

## GRAPE CULTURAL PRACTICES: Jodi Creasap-Gee, Ph.D.

### Post-Harvest Checklist:

*I pulled out last year's post-harvest checklist and noticed the last step was to "Have a great Thanksgiving!" This is just another reminder of how far ahead we are this season. Sheesh, I can barely throw a "Happy Halloween!" out there at this point. Regardless, the end of harvest is here (or almost here, for some growers and winemakers), and it is time to review the list of things to do after harvest. Applicable to both juice and wine grape production, this list may or may not be comprehensive for all vineyard businesses. Either way, I hope it serves as a reminder of what needs to be done.*

*This year was a tough one. Spring started early, and then was interrupted by the return of winter in the form of several freeze events. Followed by a short spring, a long, dry summer ripened the small crop, which was then threatened by harvest rains. Luckily, growers are adaptable and made it through with relatively good quality fruit and a relatively cheerful industry.*

1. If the ground is not frozen and you have not done so already, take some **soil samples** in the blocks throughout your vineyard. Stop in the office, and we can go through vineyard maps to create a soil sampling strategy for your vineyards.
2. **Collect, clean, and store all bins** properly, preferably under cover.
3. How much is your equipment worth to you? Vineyard equipment is expensive and essential, so take good care of it. **Clean, winterize, oil, grease, and properly store** vineyard equipment that is not to be used again until spring.
4. Grab your vineyard maps and take a **tour** (in truck – good; on Gator – better; on foot – best) of your vineyards to identify/evaluate trouble spots – damaged posts, skips, ruts between rows, broken drainage tile, etc.. [If vines need replaced, record what and where and either order plants now or mark vines for layering. Grafted vines should be planned for planting 2 years in advance.]
5. If you had **weed problems** this year, you might want to try a fall application of Roundup after the leaves drop from the vines. Remember, use of several 2, 4-D formulations is illegal in the Western New York Grape growing counties, so double-check formulations and regulations prior to applications to eliminate broad-leaf weeds.
6. If you have new vineyards that are clean tilled, it might not be too late to get a winter cover planted, but one can **consider planting some grass or a cover crop** on the soil for next year to prevent erosion, improve organic matter, and break up compaction. The standard types of grasses used are rye, barley or oats. These are not permanent covers and, when taken down, they will enhance the fertility of your soils. Remember, the higher the organic matter in your soil, the less nitrogen you need to apply pre-bloom. You can plant a permanent cover of durable slow and low growers like creeping red fescue, especially if vine vigor is a chronic problem, but this can be expensive.
7. **Business management:** Collect your weight tickets or whatever you use to calculate your charges. If need be, check and double-check your contracts and numbers. If there are issues related to the contract, you can either take that up with the winery or processor now or a little later. [Send itemized invoices out to the wineries with payment terms.]
8. Be sure to **record trouble spots** in each block, be it a downy mildew (unlikely this year), powdery mildew, or phomopsis problem from this year. Losing leaves to disease only skews

the leaf-to-fruit ratio, thereby making ripening more difficult in these “high yield and minimum standards” times. Being on top of sprays right out of the gate next spring will keep the vines cleaner and healthier and more productive. A healthy vine can be a productive vine.

9. Many growers are thinking about **pruning**, are you? Is your equipment ready, and do you know who will be pruning and what their skill level is? Is this year the year you need to consider mechanical pruning? Pruning sets the tone for quality in 2013; we had fairly bud development weather in 2012 (depending on levels of drought stress in each vineyard), plus a small crop so crop potential might be higher than average in 2013.
10. **Tag vines with red leaves or white varieties with leaf curl, crown gall.** These may or may not be candidates for virus – be sure to check the trunk for damage or crown gall. If the trunk is clean, tag and test the vine for the presence of viruses. They should be pulled if they test positive for virus, or you should plan to renew trunks if tumors or injuries are present.
11. For grafted plants, hybrid or vinifera, you will need to **hill up vineyard soil** with a grape hoe to insulate the graft unions. Recall that the graft union is essentially a weak spot – like scar tissue – that is more sensitive to cold temperatures. Sure, we had a fairly mild winter last year, but that doesn’t mean Mother Nature won’t surprise us this winter. Hill up 5” to 6” of dirt over the union. Other options include straw and mulch. The lighter the material, the more volume you need to protect the vine. Hilling up can be tricky, and this is where laser-planted vineyards can be very nice – the straight rows allow for relatively easy hilling up and taking down of soil. Ask someone who’s experienced in hilling up, if need be, and remember that weed management needs to be spot-on, and soil conditions should be just right (not too wet or dry).
12. If applicable, talk to winemakers to **request samples of your wines**, especially the lots that are not yet blended. Talk to the winemaker who buys your fruit and discuss the season, the fruit quality, and assess if anything needs to be done differently next year. Wine grapes bring more money because more work is required to make high quality fruit for fine wines. Your grapes represent this region – you certainly would prefer a positive perception of good quality fruit and wine, right? It’s kitschy, but true: Quality starts in the vineyard, and it is essential to forge a relationship with the winemaker to whom you are selling fruit.
13. When you have the time, **sit down and review the season carefully.** Figure out what worked and what didn’t, and remember that if you were trying something new in your blocks, it usually takes almost 3 full seasons to see a statistically significant difference in treatments. Again, record trouble spots (disease, insects, frost pockets, etc.) and plan to manage your blocks accordingly for next year. Will you leave more buds on and plan to crop thin 30 days post bloom? Or will you plan to leave fewer buds on this year? One of the keys to vineyard management is managing on a yearly basis – every year is different, so you may not always have the same management plan from year to year. How was vineyard nutrition? Did you get your soil and petiole tests completed and recommendations back? Petiole tests showed artificially low potassium levels, due to the dry season. Plan for nutrient amendment applications to build up soil health. Should anything be done differently for next year for vineyard floor management? Finally, you are running a business, so assess the health of the business. Did you make money? Did you sell your entire crop? Take a long, hard look at this and determine where you can improve efficiency and profitability without cutting corners at the expense of vine health.

*(Many thanks to Mark Chien, Penn State Extension Viticulturalist, for allowing me to adapt from his post-harvest checklist.*

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: Kevin Martin



Image 1. <http://www.vineprovineyardmanagement.com/>

Since our last crop update the key provisions of the Grape Region Accelerated Production and Efficiency (GRAPE) Act took effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The provisions were included in the MAP-21 Highway bill. While it should have been in time for harvest, it did not exactly work out that way.

Daily allowable trucking miles for growers have been

extended from 100 to 150 miles. Trucking for the rest of the world is an industry unto itself. It is heavily regulated, taxed and controlled for the safety of other motorists. The problem, of course, is trying to deal with those regulations, in particular with short-haulers. With few miles to drive and a narrow harvest window trucking can be difficult to manage. Many growers have outsourced the function.

I wouldn't recommend against outsourcing but it does put more growers at a greater risk of running into a cash flow crunch. Regulations and licensing issues is part of the reason growers are unable to compete with custom trucking outfits.

If you're not familiar with the legal exemptions that have been expanded under MAP-21 the following should provide you with a general idea.

The exemptions only apply to Covered farm vehicles. So the question remains, what is a covered farm vehicle? It must be

- Operated by the farm owner or farm operator
- OR
- An employee or family member of a owner or operator
- Pursuant to a crop share farm lease
- AND
- Transporting agricultural commodities or livestock or machinery or supplies
- Equipped with a special plate or other designation
- GVW must be less than 26,001 pounds OR traveling within the State or within 150 air miles of the farm.
- AND
- The vehicle cannot be used in the operation of a for-hire motor carrier except pursuant to a crop share farm lease; owned by a tenant with respect to that agreement and transporting the landlord's portion of the crops.

Covered farm vehicles are exempt from the following federal requirements

- CDLs
- Drug-testing
- Medical certificates
- Hours of service
- Vehicle inspection repair and maintenance

Covered farm vehicles may be regulated by the State but the Federal government cannot make funding contingent on any such regulations.

## **FROM THE DESK OF... Dr. Terry Bates**

### ***Yield Monitoring in Grapes***



[Click on the picture or this link](#)  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtUXdFVFI4w&feature=plcp>) to see a short video on what CLEREL is doing this harvest season to map yield variation in vineyards.

Do you know a High School Senior interested in a career in agriculture? If yes, please read the information below and follow the links. Good luck! There is also a link on our [LERGP Home Page](#) for your convenience:

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



***NEW YORK FARM BUREAU OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS WHO PLAN AN AG-RELATED FUTURE***

**Albany, N.Y.** – New York Farm Bureau is encouraging high school seniors who have been involved with agriculture and plan on continuing studies in this field to apply for the New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship sponsored by the New York Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee. Scholarship awards are \$1,500 for first place \$1,200 for second and \$1,000 for third place. The first place winner will be invited to present their essay at a NYFB Spring event.

Students applying must have a family Farm Bureau membership or a Student Farm Bureau membership (a membership application may be included with scholarship enclosures). Students are required to submit a brief essay answering the question, "If you had the power to change something in your community or on your farm, what would you change and why?"

At the District level, a personal interview and essay presentation may be scheduled at the discretion of the District Representative. The county winner will be the applicant scoring the highest for each county. The District winner will be overall highest county winner. District winners will be notified on or before the District judging deadline of January 18th 2013. The District winners will have an opportunity to make minor changes (i.e. grammar, spelling, additional awards etc.) to their applications prior to the February 1st final deadline, at which time all applications must be into New York Farm Bureau for the state judging. The State competition is based solely upon the application and attachments.

County Farm Bureaus are urged to utilize the talents of these young people for county events such as Earth Day and Ag Day Celebrations, special events, county Annual Meetings and Rural Urban Dinners. These young people are the future of Agriculture in NYS and a voice of hope and passion in this ever-changing environment we call home. Help empower them to spread the message.

**The application submission deadline is November 18, 2012.** To nominate someone for the scholarship or to request an application, call 1-800-342-4143 or visit <http://www.nyfb.org> and then scroll down to "Farm Essentials" for scholarship information and the application.

<http://cce.cornell.edu/Ag/AgTeams/2013%20Scholarship%20Brochure.pdf>

<http://cce.cornell.edu/Ag/AgTeams/2012%20Scholarship%20Applications%20due.pdf>

<http://cce.cornell.edu/Ag/AgTeams/2013%20Scholarship%20Application%20Fillin.pdf>

**Adapting Canopy Sensing Systems into Juice Grape Production webpage:**

<http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/Canopy%20sensing/Canopy%20sensing.htm>

Go to <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/EventsCalendar.htm> for a detailed calendar of events including maps via Google calendar. Scroll to the bottom of the page for Google calendar and click on the event. Please remember to RSVP for those events that require one!

### **FARM INSURANCE OPEN HOUSE AND SEMINAR**

(flyer: [http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/1012\\_Farm%20Flier%20Insurance%20Open%20House.pdf](http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/1012_Farm%20Flier%20Insurance%20Open%20House.pdf))

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 17, 2012

**TIME:** 11:00 AM—3:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Cassadaga American Legion, 228 Maple Ave., Cassadaga, NY

**COST:** *Pay at the door:* \$5 per person for CCE enrolled producers; \$10 for non-enrolled



*Visit with local agencies about insurance options for your farm business, including health, life, and liability insurance products and learn about how insurance can protect and provide for your farm and family.*

Please RSVP by October 12th with number of people from your farm to Ginny Carlberg at (716) 664-9502 x 202 or [vec22@cornell.edu](mailto:vec22@cornell.edu)

**CONTACTS:** Molly McDonough [717-237-2208](tel:717-237-2208)

Jackie Stonfer [717-237-2133](tel:717-237-2133)

### **USDA Announces Public Information Meetings for the Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claim Process**

*Harrisburg, PA, September 27, 2012*—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold public information sessions in Pennsylvania for Hispanic and women farmers who allege USDA discrimination when seeking USDA farm loan assistance between 1981 and 2000. Agency directors will answer questions and discuss the Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers claims process.



The scheduled meetings are:

**October 2, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.**

Westmoreland County USDA  
Service Center  
214 Donohoe Center  
Greensburg, PA 15601

**October 2, 2012 - 3:00 p.m.**

Courtyard Pittsburgh  
Washington Meadowlands  
1800 Tanger Blvd.  
Washington, PA 15301

**October 4, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.**

Hampton Inn Meadville  
11446 Dawn Drive  
Meadville, PA 16335

**October 4, 2012 - 3:00 p.m.**

Courtyard by Marriott of Erie, PA  
7792 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16509



**October 25, 2012,  
10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**  
Berks County USDA Service Center  
1238 County Welfare Road  
Leesport, PA 19533

**October 25, 2012  
10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**  
Lancaster County USDA Service  
Center  
1383 Arcadia Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

On September 24, 2012, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the opening of a claims process for Hispanic or female farmers and ranchers who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

"The opening of this claims process is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to correct the wrongs of the past and ensure fair treatment to all current and future customers," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities and contact the website or claims telephone number.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** [1-888-508-4429](tel:1-888-508-4429)

**Claims Period:** September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

For additional information about the meetings in Pennsylvania, or to make special accommodations requests, please call [717-237-2208](tel:717-237-2208), or [717-237-2133](tel:717-237-2133).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

***PLEASE NOTE: Next Electronic Crop Update will be Thursday, October 18, 2012***

*Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Crop Update* is an e-mail newsletter produced by the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program and sent out by subscription only. For subscription information, please call us at 716.792.2800 ext 201, or look for subscription forms at [http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/Join\\_Lergp.htm](http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/Join_Lergp.htm).

For any questions or comments on the format of this update please contact Tim Weigle at: [thw4@cornell.edu](mailto:thw4@cornell.edu).

***Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Team Members:***

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2011 Appellation Cornell Newsletter Index:

<http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/appellation-cornell/2011-index.cfm>

Veraison to Harvest newsletters: <http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/veraison-to-harvest/index.cfm>

NY Grape & Wine Classifieds – New Address! - <http://flgclassifieds.cce.cornell.edu/>

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

**Cornell University Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.**

***Contact the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing or mobility impairments.***

**CCE does not endorse or recommend any specific product or service.**

***THE LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM at CLEREL***

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