



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



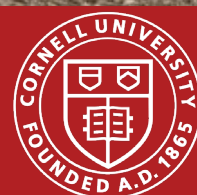
PennState Extension

There is gold at the end of the rainbow!

photo- Madonna Martin 10/01/2020

Crop Update - October 1, 2020

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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.

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How to join a Zoom meeting video (1 minute):

https://www.youtube.com/embed/vFhAEoCF7jg?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

Joining and Configuring Audio & Video (1 minute):

https://www.youtube.com/embed/HqncX7RE0wM?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

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Business Management

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

NYS Sick Time Mandate

Just a quarterly reminder that PA employers are lucky, or NY employees are lucky. It all depends on your perspective. Sick time has become a NYS mandate for all employers. For nearly all employers this sick time will be a paid benefit. If you were hoping for a farm exemption, it did not happen. We are still waiting on some regulations to define some ambiguities in the law. In the meantime, the recommendation is to assume the regulations will broadly define the application of the law to all employees. It is possible that certain employees will not be covered, but that assumption cannot be made at this time. For employers with more than 4 employees, this sick time benefit must be **paid sick time**.

Employers are not required to allow sick time to be used until January 1, 2021. Employers do need to allow employees to accrue sick time immediately. The accrual of sick time began on September 30, 2020. Employees must accrue a minimum of 1 hour of sick time for 30 hours worked. These accruals need to be tracked contemporaneously, or at the time they are earned. In other words, earned sick time should show on employee paystubs next week. At this time that is all that must be done.

A few more actions are recommended to reduce confusion and stress. Employees and managers should be trained (informed) on sick time policy. For now, it might just include some information on the benefit and why it is being added to the paycheck. In November it is time to share the policy in more complete detail. Employees should understand when it is acceptable to take sick time. The law spells this out for the employer and it is a fairly broad definition.

Employees should also understand the accrual process. The law allows time to be carried over from year to year. Employees should understand the amount of time that can be carried over and when earned time will be lost. 40 hours can be carried over if the employer has less than 100 employees. I would recommend payroll services to most NY growers and many large PA growers. Payroll services have gotten very inexpensive and shifted many activities to the internet/cloud to reduce cost. Make sure you find one that meets your needs, while also attempting to minimize cost. One must have for farmers is the ability of the provider to complete 943 forms rather than 940. This will eliminate several choices. Another big factor will be the frequency and method of payment that the farmer and employees require. The list included below is by no means an all-inclusive list. As you will see, there is no shortage of services offered. This space is very crowded and the low-cost options (that do not offer much in the way of human assistance) can be very inexpensive.

If you already have sick leave make sure that it is compliant with the law. Accruals need to be contemporaneous, sick leave must be available for all available categories (not just physical illness) and for most farm employers the sick leave will need to be paid. Farms that have sick leave policy may not meet these requirements.

1. 101 Pay
2. Advantage Payroll Services
3. ADP
4. APS
5. AmCheck
6. Alliance Payroll Services
7. BenefitMall
8. Big Fish Payroll Service
9. Cbiz Flex-Pay
10. Client Solutions Group
11. Checkmate Payroll
12. Costail Human Resource Group
13. Diamond Payroll Services
14. DM Payroll Services
15. Employ
16. Farm Credit
17. Fingercheck
18. Fuse Workforce Management
19. Gusto
20. Harpers Payroll Services
21. Heartland Payroll
22. Highflyer HR
23. Insperity
24. Integrated Payroll Services
25. JetPay
26. Jumpstart: HR
27. Justworks
28. Kelly Payroll
29. MMC HR
30. Namely
31. Newtek
32. Oasis Outsourcing
33. OnPay
34. Optium Employer Solutions
35. Patriot Software
36. Paychex
37. Paycor
38. Paylocity
39. Paysmart
40. PayUSA
41. Pro iPay
42. Recision Payroll of America
43. Premier Payroll Services
44. PrimePay
45. TelePayroll
46. TriNet
47. Quickbooks Payroll
48. Sage
49. Sheridan Benefits
50. Wagepoint
51. Wave

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

Around the Region

It is a great time to be in WNY. The air is thick with the aroma of sweet grapes in our region. Bin-lined trailers and trailers with bulk gondolas driving down the road are a common site, and the calls into the office have definitely slowed this past week; all signs that harvest is in full swing.



In the Lake Erie Grape Region, discussions with industry stakeholders this past week began with ‘we need rain’. According to the Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA) for Portland, NY, the last three days of September yielded us 1.1 inches and the total precipitation recorded for September was 2.22 inches. When speaking with vinifera growers they mentioned that they needed two inches of rain, and *‘the sugars were high and acid levels are not dropping fast enough’* by their standards. I have had an uptick in soil and petiole sampling and have noticed some potassium deficiencies in some blocks. Potassium is a nutrient that requires water to carry it through the soil profile and we are all aware of the lack of rainfall this season.

During the first nine days of Concord harvest for one producer, they reported that good quality Concords were coming in, averaging well over 16 °Brix. *‘Acid is good, color is great, and flavor is yummy, an official Quality Control term ;). Concord crop size is coming in smaller than the farmer estimates. That, coupled with smaller crops in both MI and WA indicate that there will be a shortage of Concord. Remember though, that the juice industry is shrinking overall, so this shortage is bucking an overall downward trend’.*

The smaller tonnage seemed to be a common thread when speaking with other producers. I asked another producer about the status of their harvest thus far, and it was reported “dry, hot, and running out of grapes”. The harvest was anticipated as being complete by this Friday, October 2, 2020, when they had planned on running two weeks into October.

CLEREL Weather

Per the Network for Environmental and Weather Applications (NEWA) for the station located at CLEREL in Portland, NY, the average air temp for the past week was 64.9°F up from 57.7°F the

previous week, a difference of 7.2°. The air maximum temp of 80.7° up from 72.8°, a 7.9° difference from last week, and minimum temp this week 48.9° compared to 44.4° last week that differed 4.5°. The AgriTech lab did not receive any precipitation or leaf wetness two weeks prior, but in the past three days we've accumulated 21 hours. The wind has also been stronger the past couple days.

Phenological Resources:

- [Newsletter: Veraison to Harvest #5](#)
- [Newsletter: Veraison to Harvest #4](#)
- [Newsletter: Veraison to Harvest #3](#)
- [Newsletter: Veraison to Harvest #2](#)
- [Newsletter: Veraison to Harvest #1](#)
- [New York State Announces Confirmed Finding of Spotted Lanternfly on Staten Island](#)
- [2016 Organic Production and IPM Guide for Grapes](#) | *New York State IPM Program*
- [Insecticides for control of spotted wing drosophila](#) | *Art Agnello, et al., Cornell University*
- [Grape Insect and Mite Pests-2018 Field Season](#) | *Greg Loeb, Cornell University*
- [Early Season Grape Disease Management](#) | *Katie Gold, Cornell University*

Regional Resources & Activities (3 pesticide recertification credits available):

- [ASEV Webinar: Lifecycle Modeling and the Impacts of Climate Change](#) | *Gwen-Alyn Hoheisel, WA State University* | Oct-22
- [ASEV Webinar: Invasive Species Response: Lessons from the European Grapevine Moth Collaborative Program](#) | *Monica Cooper, UC, Cooperative Extension* | Nov-12
- [Spotted Lanternfly -- Understanding its Ecology and the Threat](#) | *Pesticide Management Education Program, Distance Learning Center* (1 DEC credit)
- [Management of Grape Berry Moth](#) | *Pesticide Management Education Program, Distance Learning Center* (1 DEC credit)
- [Implementing NEWA into a Vineyard IPM Strategy](#) | *Pesticide Management Education Program, Distance Learning Center* (1 DEC credit)

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Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Viticulture Assistant, LERGP

Here we go – Year 3 of the Vineyard Improvement Program

We have wrapped up 2 years of the Vineyard Improvement Program and are about to begin year 3 of the 5 years it will be available. So far there have been 22 applicants to the program, 8 of which already have their projects completed and have received their reimbursement checks. To date over \$148,000 has been paid out and over 107 acres of unwanted/uncontracted Concord vineyards have been replaced with another agricultural commodity.

October 2020 marks the “sweet spot” of the program because there is still the maximum amount of time available for removal and replant. This program allows for 1 year to complete the removal, and 2 more years to complete the replant. We have seen that many applicants don’t need quite that much time, but some do, often depending on what commodity is being replanted. If you have been thinking that this program could help your business but keep putting it off, now is the time to check it out. Go to lergp.com and click on the big purple Vineyard Improvement Program button. Applicants need not be grape growers. Landowners of abandoned Concord vineyards are welcome and encouraged to apply. Proof of Concord will be required and the land must be replanted to an agricultural commodity.



Figure 1 Vineyard Improvement Program Replant

This program is provided by New York Ag and Markets and is funded by the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. It is available to the Southern Tier of New York which for this program includes the following counties: Chautauqua, Erie (NY), Niagara, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Tioga.

If you have questions please contact Kim Knappenberger (ksk76@cornell.edu), Kevin Martin (kmm52@psu.edu) or Jennifer Phillips Russo (jjr268@cornell.edu).

Hand Sanitizer and Masks for Producers in Chautauqua County

There is still an ample supply of hand sanitizer and masks available at CLEREL in Portland. Just a couple weeks ago another delivery of gallon jugs of the hand sanitizer arrived. Unfortunately we are currently out of the small spray bottles, but if you already have some you can refill them from the jug or small spray bottles can be purchased at local dollar stores. As a reminder, this supply is available to ALL agricultural producers in Chautauqua County, that includes dairy, livestock, grapes, vegetables, farm stands, U-Pick, nursery, equine, and craft beverage, so spread the word! Stay safe everyone!

To sign up for your free masks and hand sanitizer click [this link](#).



Other links of interest:

[LERGP Web-site:](#)

[Cornell Cooperative Extension website:](#)

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

[Efficient Vineyard:](#)

[Appellation Cornell Newsletter:](#)

COVID-19 resources:

Need information? View the following Cornell CALS and CCE Resource Pages Updated Regularly

General Questions & Links:

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

Food Production, Processing & Safety Questions:

<https://instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Employment & Agricultural Workforce Questions:

<http://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Small Farms Resiliency Resources:

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/>

Financial & Mental Health Resources for Farmers:

<https://www.nyfarmnet.org/>

Cornell Farmworker Program

www.farmworkers.cornell.edu

www.trabajadores.cornell.edu (en espanol)

