



# Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

December 10th, 2021

## Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

### So It's been A While...

I know it's been some time since I last communicated with all of you, and for that I apologize. Some of you know that my Dad was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer 3½ years ago. He often talked about maintaining a "truce with stupid cancer" for as long as he could, which he managed to do for much longer than most people do. In mid-September, Dad developed leukemia due to the prolonged chemotherapy regimen he was on, and he was placed into hospice care. I spent the vast majority of the next two months with him and my family in Minnesota, until he died on Friday, October 29. His funeral and inurnment (a new word to me) of his ashes occurred a couple of weeks later. I've been trying to get caught up with things since then, and finally have been able to take some time to write up another issue of the Vineyard Update.



My Dad, Jim Peterson

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If I missed an email or wasn't able to answer a question that you had for me, I'm sincerely sorry about that. My bandwidth for work was pretty narrow at times, and that meant some things fell through the cracks. I'm getting back in the saddle again, working on this winter's B.E.V NY meeting with our friends at the Enology Extension Lab and the NY Wine & Grape Foundation, working on projects and proposals for the coming year, and even looking forward to doing some pruning in the next few months.

I tell you this for a couple of reasons – 1) to let you know why I haven't been in communication much over the past few months, and 2) to offer my thanks and appreciation to those who knew what was going on and were so incredibly supportive of my being away, including many people in the industry. I especially want to thank my teammates with the FLGP – Don, Brittany and Ellen – who kept things going seamlessly while I was away, my supervisor Peter Landre, and the Extension Association directors in the six counties that we work with. I say this a lot, but I feel so fortunate to work at a place like Cornell that supports its employees the way they did this fall, and with an industry where many people aren't just "clients" but also friends and colleagues. Thank you all.

OK, on to grapes!

### B.E.V. NY 2022 is Coming!

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*Annual NY Grape & Wine Conference will be held*

*March 29-31, 2022*

As I mentioned, we are in the process of planning the 2022 version of B.E.V. NY in partnership with our colleagues at Cornell's Enology Extension Lab and the NY Wine & Grape Foundation. The dates for this year's meeting are Tuesday, March 29 – Thursday, March 31.



As of right now, we are planning on holding the conference as a 'hybrid' event – the first day of the conference, Tuesday March 29, will be held in-person at the RIT Conference Center, and will include a trade show. We are also planning to stream that day's program for those who are unable to attend the program in person. The program for March 30-31 will be done over Zoom, as we did last year. Each day's program will include business, enology and viticulture sessions as we did last year as well.

More information will be coming out over the next several weeks about speakers, sessions, trade show information for vendors, etc. You can register to receive updates about B.E.V. NY by going to the event website, <http://www.bevny.org>, and entering your email address in the 'Subscribe' box near the bottom of the homepage.

### 2022 FLGP Enrollment

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A couple of years ago, we made a change in how enrollment is handled each winter. In past years, all enrollments were done through our office in Penn Yan. But because the enrollment process is something that county extension associations require, we decided that it would be appropriate for each office to be responsible for enrolling the growers in their counties into the FLGP each year. There has been a little bit of confusion about this since we made the change, so I just wanted to take a minute to highlight this again this winter as the enrollment process is underway for most of the county associations now.

I won't bore you with all of the details about why this decision was made – the main point for growers to know and remember is that *you should be getting enrollment information from your county extension office and return your form and payment to them*. They will send us the information of everyone who signs up for the program and we will generate our mailing list for next year based on that information. If you have questions, you should direct them to your local county office. For those who are from outside these six counties, you should be receiving your enrollment forms from (and submitting them to) the Yates County office as usual.

CCE Ontario (585) 394-3977 nea8@cornell.edu	CCE Steuben (607) 664-2300 amz65@cornell.edu
CCE Schuyler (607) 535-7161 cab377@cornell.edu	CCE Wayne (315) 331-8415E mab567@cornell.edu
CCE Seneca (315) 539-9251 bu28@cornell.edu	CCE Yates (315) 536-5134 bg393@cornell.edu

### GOVERNOR HOCHUL ANNOUNCES \$25 MILLION INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE HOUSING FOR FARMWORKERS

*New Initiative Will Be Created Using Federal CDBG CARES Act Funds To Help Farms Reduce Spread Of Coronavirus, Protect Workforce*

*\$10 Million Will Go Toward The Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program To Improve Farmworker Housing*

*\$15 Million Will Go To A Farmworker Housing Revolving Loan Program*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced a new \$25 million package in grants and loans to improve housing conditions for farmworkers and to protect the health and safety of this critical workforce. The Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program will fund the rehabilitation and replacement of existing substandard farmworker housing. Grants are available from NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) through Federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act funding, which provides resources to municipalities to improve housing and community facilities in response to COVID-19. In addition, the State oversees a \$15 million Farmworker Housing Program, a revolving loan program designed to improve farmworker housing, through which farmers can apply for up to \$200,000 per farm.

"The New Yorkers who work hard to keep our farms operating deserve housing that is safe, secure, and does not jeopardize their health or wellbeing," **Governor Hochul said**. "Many of these individuals often reside in congregate housing already in need of rehabilitation, and with the risks still posed by COVID-19, it's critical we get this work underway as soon as possible. Thanks to this funding, we can make that a reality and ensure these hardworking New Yorkers have a suitable place to call home."

For the Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program, municipalities may apply for grants of up to \$1 million to support a farm or group of farms with 5-10 housing units in need of rehabilitation or replacement to address issues such as environmental hazards, outdated air filtration systems, and to provide essential personal protective equipment such as masks and hand sanitizer.

Grants must benefit low- to moderate-income individuals with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and work must be completed within 12-18 months of award.

Applications are available online: <https://hcr.ny.gov/cdbg-cares>

The Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program complements the New York State Farmworker Housing Program, which was created more than 20 years ago to help farms provide safe and appropriate housing for their employees. The program is administered by Farm Credit East in partnership with New York State Homes and Community Renewal and provides no-interest loans to finance improvement of existing housing or the construction or purchase of new housing for farmworkers. New York agricultural producers, including fruit, vegetable, greenhouse and nursery, equine, and dairy operations are eligible to apply.

**Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said**, "New York's farmworkers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep food on our tables. We owe it to them to make sure their living conditions do not put them at additional risk for COVID-19 exposure. I'll keep fighting to protect farmworkers and keep New York's agricultural community strong."

**Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney said**, "Farmworkers are a critical part of our economy and they deserve safe housing to come back to after a hard days work. These grants won't just help our farmworkers, but the farmers and all of our farming communities in the Hudson Valley as well. I am especially proud that this funding will be a lifeline for small farmers who would otherwise face major financial hurdles to improving housing for farmworkers."

**Congressman Adriano Espaillat said**, "Farmworkers are essential members of our communities and critical to our nation's workforce. I commend Governor Hochul on today's announcement of new initiatives to help improve the lives of farmworkers who risked their lives during the height of the pandemic to provide food and resources to families throughout our communities. I am delighted to see how funding which I helped secure through the Federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act will be utilized in our state to provide necessary investments to housing for New York farmworkers and their families."

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*\$15 Million Will Go To A Farmworker Housing Revolving Loan Program (continued)*

**Farm Credit East vice president and NYS FWH program coordinator Mike Haycook said,** "The New York State Farm Worker Housing loan program has been a tremendous tool for farms seeking to build or improve housing for their farm workers. Farm Credit East is pleased to partner with the State of New York on these programs that help both farms and the workers they rely on."

**New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher said,** "New York's farmers value the men and women who perform essential work on our farms. This includes providing safe housing for our employees. The grant and loan programs announced today will assist farmers to construct new housing and modernize their facilities. New York Farm Bureau has been a longtime advocate for the Farmworker Housing Program, and we commend Gov. Hochul for continuing the effort and making grant dollars available to farms that have been on the front lines protecting farmworkers during the pandemic."

**RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal said,** "Farmworkers provide an invaluable service by assuring New Yorkers have access to fresh, nutritious food. They deserve to live in affordable, dignified housing that keeps them safe and healthy, especially as we begin to emerge from the COVID pandemic. The initiatives announced today will go a long way toward helping farmers improve housing conditions for workers, and reduce the spread of coronavirus. I want to thank my colleagues at NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and our friends at Farm Credit East for partnering with us on this important effort to invest in New York's farms and reduce the hardships on this critical workforce."

**State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said,** "The Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program and the New York State Farm Worker Housing Program are critical resources, allowing our farmers to invest in updated or new housing for their employees. As part of our work on the Agriculture Labor Advisory Group, which was formed several years ago, the state emphasized the importance of housing improvements for the safety and welfare of our year-round and seasonal workers who are essential to bringing food to our communities. Thanks to the New York State Department of Homes and Community Renewal, and its partnership with Farm Credit East, our farmers have a unique opportunity to access much-needed funding in this area and I encourage them to consider applying for the programs."

For more information on the Farmworker Safety Housing Grant Program go to: <https://hcr.ny.gov/cdbg-cares#farmworker-housing-grants>

For more information on the Farmworker Housing Program go to: <https://hcr.ny.gov/farmworker-housing-program-fw> or [FarmCreditEast.com](https://FarmCreditEast.com).

### STATE AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER ENCOURAGES THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY TO APPLY FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

*Grants of Up to \$50,000 are Available for Eligible Small Businesses With Revenues of Up to \$2.5 Million and Experiencing Financial Hardship Due to COVID-19*

*Department Hosting Webinar for Interested Businesses December 13, Join the Webinar [Here](#)*

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball today encouraged New York State's agricultural industry to apply for the \$800 million COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program. Grants are available for eligible small businesses that have revenues up to \$2.5 million and are experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Additional information and the application are available [here](#).

**Commissioner Ball said,** "There are so many agribusinesses that are still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and facing many challenges after having lost markets at schools and restaurants. This grant program provides an opportunity for our food and beverage producers, our farmers, and our growers to access some much-needed capital to help recover their losses and rebuild their businesses."

Empire State Development and Lendistry, the minority-led Community Development Financial Institution that was selected to administer the program, are accepting and reviewing applications on a rolling basis. There is no deadline at this time. Questions about the program can be directed to Lendistry at (877) 721-0097.

**Empire State Development Acting Commissioner and President & CEO-designate Hope Knight said,** "New York's food and agricultural industry is vital to the state's economic recovery and ensuring that our agribusinesses are moving forward and thriving is crucial for the state's economic post-pandemic progress. We encourage eligible agribusinesses to apply for these grants, which will help us all move forward."

Grants for a minimum award of \$5,000 and a maximum award of \$50,000 are calculated based on a New York State business' annual gross receipts for 2019. Reimbursable COVID-19 related expenses must have been incurred between March 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021 and can include payroll costs; commercial rent or mortgage payments for New York State-based property; payment of local property or school taxes; insurance and utility costs; costs of personal protection equipment necessary to protect worker and consumer health and safety; costs for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, or other machinery and equipment; and supplies and materials necessary for compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Additionally, the limitation for businesses that received Federal Paycheck Protection Program loans has been increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program Webinar

To help the agricultural industry apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program, the Department is hosting a webinar for interested businesses on December 13, 2021 at 11 a.m. The webinar will provide an overview of the grant program, the level of funding available, and how to apply for funds. To access the webinar, please visit this [link](#).

For additional information regarding the various resources available to support businesses seeking pandemic relief, ESD has created a webpage, <https://esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative>. The webpage is continuously updated as more details and funding information becomes available.

### 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.



### Advances in grapevine trunk disease management in the dormant period

*Tuesday, December 14, 2021*

*3:00 – 4:30 PM EST*

This timely webinar occurs at the beginning of the dormant pruning period. Learn perspectives on trunk disease management and mitigation from two plant pathologists that research grapevine diseases in different climates. Topics covered include diagnosis, understanding judicious vine removal, pruning decisions, and use of chemical protectants.

**Registration:** You must register for this meeting. Register in advance [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



**Dr. Kendra Baumgartner**, Research Plant Pathologist, USDA-ARS/University of California, Davis, CA

**Dr. Mizuho Nita**, Associate Professor and Extension Grape Pathologist, Alson H Smith, Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech

**Cornell AgriTech**  
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

**VT VIRGINIA  
TECH.**

**PennState Extension**

**Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum**  
*A Webinar Series for Eastern Growers and Winemakers*

### Private Pesticide Applicators Course

*January 19th-20th, 2022*

*1:00-5:00 PM*

*CCE Yates County (Yates County Auditorium)*

You may attend one or both days. Each day 4 recertification credits are available. Please call CCE Yates County (315-536-5123) with any questions or to register.

# Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Finger Lakes Grape Program

December 10th,

## 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**- E & J Gallo

**Tina Hazlitt**- Sawmill Creek Vineyards

**Cameron Hosmer**- Hosmer Winery

**T.J. Brahm** – Randall Standish Vineyards

**Harry Humphreys**- Overlook Farms

**Gregg McConnell**- Farm Credit East

**Herm Young**– Young Sommer Winery

**John Santos**- Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards

**Steve Sklenar**– Sklenar Vineyard

**Justine Vanden Heuvel**- Cornell University

**Peter Weis** – Weis Vineyards

**Kim Marconi** – Three Brothers Wineries & Estates

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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 partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

[flgp.cce.cornell.edu](http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu)

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