



Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

January 12th, 2022

Finger Lakes Vineyard Update

Bud Hardiness Monitoring in 2022

Our annual monitoring of grapevine bud hardiness is up and running again this year. The project is now being run by Jason Londo, our new professor of physiology for apples and grapes at Cornell AgriTech (more on that later). Jason previously worked with USDA’s Grape Genetics Research Unity housed at Geneva and focused much of his work on understanding the mechanisms of winter hardiness in grapes. He is continuing some of that work in his new position, including the bud hardiness monitoring.

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One of the changes that you will see in this year’s monitoring results, which can be found at <https://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/extension/bud-hardiness-data/2021-2022-data/>, is a broader range of varieties that are being monitored this year. In addition to the four cultivars that we have been collecting in past years – Cabernet Franc, Concord, Cayuga White and Riesling – there are several others now, including Marquette, Chardonnay, Lemberger and others. Most of these samples are being collected near Geneva, but we have started collecting samples from other vineyards around the region and those results will be posted on the website as we get the results. The results from the most recent sampling (January 3, 2022) are in the table below, along with links to the graphs for each cultivar listed (click the cultivar name for the graphs).

Cultivar	LT ₁₀ (°F)	LT ₅₀ (°F)	LT ₉₀ (°F)
Cabernet Franc	-1.7	-4.7	-7.5
Cabernet Sauvignon	2.7	-3.5	-7.4
Cayuga White	-4.4	-8.3	-10.9
Chardonnay	-3.2	-6.4	-8.1
Concord	-5.2	-10.6	-15.1
Gewürztraminer	-1.6	-3.4	-7.4
Lemberger	-2.1	-5.5	-9.1
Marquette	-6.2	-11.3	-13.8
Merlot	3.1	-1.1	-7.2
Riesling	-2.4	-6.9	-10.6
Sauvignon blanc	-1.9	-5.1	-7.1

These numbers probably look to be higher than we might expect at this time of year, but considering how warm it has been this winter, at least until now, this isn’t terribly surprising. With colder temperatures this week, I imagine we will see these numbers drop a bit lower in future samples. But the good news is, even though the buds might have higher

Bud Hardiness Monitoring in 2022

LT50 values, the temperatures have also not threatened them in a significant way so far. The low temperature at Geneva yesterday morning was 2.4°F, which could threaten a few buds of less hardy varieties like Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon.

As always, use these results as a guide for your own vineyard. If the temperatures at your own site approach the LT10 numbers, it's probably worth going out to check bud survival in those cultivars that could have experienced some level of injury. If you need a quick refresher on how to do this, check out our videos on [how to collect bud samples](#) and [how to assess the buds for damage](#).

Effects of NY Overtime Laws on Agricultural Production Costs and Competitiveness

Richard Stup, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development Program

We've just released a report titled: "[Effects of NY Overtime Laws on Agricultural Production Costs and Competitiveness](#)." Many thanks to Chris Wolf for leading this project and to the many collaborators from CCE, PRO-DAIRY, NYCAMH, and other organizations who helped make it possible. Of course, special thanks to the New York farmers and farmworkers who generously shared their time with us.

The report discusses the financial effects of labor cost changes in 2020 in New York dairy, fruit and vegetable farms. It also explores the potential impact of lowering the overtime threshold to 50 or 40 hours and how farm employers said they will respond to such a change. We also interviewed H-2A workers to explore how lower overtime thresholds and associated work hour limits would affect their willingness to return to New York Farms. Read the [full report here](#).

Tim Martinson Retirement



It's with both a sense of sadness and gratitude that I let you know that Tim Martinson, my colleague and predecessor as extension viticulturist for the Finger Lakes Grape Program, will be retiring as of January 31, 2022.

Tim worked for the Finger Lakes Grape Program from 1997 – 2007, before he took his current position at the Statewide Viticulture Extension specialist. During his career in Extension, Tim has had many accomplishments, both in terms of applied research in the field and developing new and effective extension programs that benefitted the industry. He was the leader of the project that led to the development of the [VineBalance](#) workbook, which has been used by many growers in the Finger Lakes region to improve their vineyard practices and reduce the environmental impacts of their farms. The VineBalance workbook is the basis of the sustainability certification program that is being developed by the industry and the NY Wine & Grape Foundation.

Tim was also the leader of the [Northern Grapes](#) project, a five-year federally-funded research and extension project that sought to improve the knowledge base for growers and wineries who rely on cultivars developed for colder climates, such as northern New York and the upper Midwest. A significant portion of the outreach effort for this project was focused on online webinars, which were still very much a 'new thing' for us (and most people) in pre-COVID times. During the project, the team hosted 30 webinars, with over 3,000 viewers in 47 states and Canada participating live, and another 2,400 viewing recordings of them later on. The success of these webinars opened many of our eyes to the potential that they could have for expanding the audience for our programs, long before COVID forced most of us to learn that for ourselves. You can read more about the accomplishments of the Northern Grapes project in one of the final newsletters [which you can find here](#).

Tim was our fearless leader for the annual [Veraison to Harvest](#) and [Winter Bud Hardiness](#) projects, which are both statewide efforts that provide important information to the industry each year about fruit ripening progress and winter bud survival, respectively. Along with Chris Gerling, Tim was also co-editor and a significant contributor for [Appellation Cornell](#), a quarterly online publication whose purpose is to highlight Cornell's Research, Teaching, and Extension efforts associated with Viticulture and Enology to a broad audience of scientists, growers, winemakers, and other industry professionals. Over 3,200 people currently subscribe to Appellation Cornell from all over the world.

Tim has made important contributions to our field and to the industry here in our little corner of the grape & wine world. Tim has been a great colleague to me and to all of us who work in viticulture and enology at Cornell. He was incredibly supportive and helpful to me as I was getting started in his former job, and has continued to be since then. His presence in our day-to-day work here at Cornell will be missed, but I have a feeling he won't completely disappear right away.

Plans are currently in the works for a celebration for Tim sometime in the spring. I will be sure to publish details when we know them. In the meantime, if you want to reach out to Tim directly, his email address is tem2@cornell.edu.

New Funding to Improve or Replace Farmworker Housing

Yesterday, Governor Hochul announced that \$10 million in new funds will be made available to improve or replace farm worker housing. These funds come from the federal CARES act money that New York received in response to COVID-19. Farms can apply for the money through local municipalities and the funds can be used to rehabilitate housing and upgrade systems such as air handling, or even to replace whole housing units. Details will come but farms need to pay attention to this opportunity now!

The state is also putting \$15 million into expanding the Farmworker Housing Program, which is a zero-interest, revolving loan program administered by Farm Credit East. These loans are up to \$200,000 per year and have a term of 10 years.

This could be a great opportunity for farms to upgrade or expand your employee housing to keep your workers more safe and comfortable.

More details in the press release below.

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."

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-fwh> or FarmCreditEast.com.

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.



2022 CCE Ontario Pesticide Training and Recertification Series

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022 *7:00 pm - 9:30 pm*

Exam Wednesday, March 2, 2022 ***6:00 pm - 10:00 pm***

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ontario County, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Anyone interested in obtaining a pesticide certification and meets the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) experience / education requirements OR current applicators seeking pesticide recertification credits should attend. 2.5 recertification core credits will be available for each class.

Cost: \$225.00 for certification which includes the training manuals and all 4 classes. **Does not include the \$100.00 exam fee.** Recertification is \$40.00/person/class.

Contact for Information and Registration: Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ontario County, 585-394-3977 x 427 or x 436 or email nea8@cornell.edu or rw43@cornell.edu Registration form is available on the CCE-Ontario County website, www.cceontario.org.

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

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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.

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