Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University’s heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.
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.
Crop insurance offers a lot of choices. Which protection is right for your business?
Contact your local Rain and Hail agent to get your crop insurance consultation before it is too late.
Sales closing date is November 20!

For details contact:
GEORGE HAFFENDEN
716.725.7840
ghaffenden@american-national.com

Rain and Hail
A Chubb Company

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Testing Cold Hardiness

Each winter, the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program collects samples of grape buds to test their ability to withstand cold temperatures. The New York Wine and Grape Foundation has funded our cold hardiness research for years. Each fall and winter, grapevine tissues produced during the growing season transition from a cold-tender to cold-hardy state. This process, known as cold acclimation, allows vines to survive low winter temperatures. Winter low temperatures that fall below a critical value can damage grapevine buds. The critical temperature for bud injury varies over the dormant season and responds to daily changes in temperature. We measure this critical temperature through a procedure called differential thermal analysis, which involves controlled freezing of a sample of buds collected from vineyards and reporting the Lethal Temperature where growers can experience 50% bud loss is reported at LT50 and posted on our website as well as in crop updates and podcasts. We monitor 14 different cultivars in and around Portland, NY. Grape growers use this information to make decisions about their pruning strategy during the dormant season in order to retain enough fruitful buds to ensure an adequate crop the following growing season. Below is a sample of the information that you can find on the Cornell Cold Hardiness Monitoring website, Fig. 1 is the Concord data

Click here for the Cold Hardiness Website

Figure 1. Portland, NY’s Concord Lethal Exotherm Temperature 50 (LTE50) data and maximum and minimum temperature curves
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is charged with bringing a grower and industry perspective to the development of our educational outreach efforts and guide our research efforts. It is the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program’s purpose to provide commercial grape growers/producers with the knowledge and resources necessary to assess production and management practices that will enhance their profitability and sustain the growth of the juice and wine grape industry (to include but not limited to production, processing, wineries, and marketing) through an extension and applied research program in the Lake Erie region of New York and Pennsylvania.

Duties/Responsibilities of the Program Advisory Committee

1. Assist the extension staff in identifying, analyzing and prioritizing educational program needs.
2. Support the extension staff in planning, implementing, and evaluating educational activities to address specific concerns.
3. Assist the extension staff in marketing the educational program within the participating extension associations in the two-state region.
4. Maintain strong two-way communications with the associations in making specific program needs known.
5. Provide input into the recruitment, employment, performance review and reappointment process for the extension specialists.
6. Provide input into the annual budget development. Assist in identifying alternative funding sources and strategies as needed.

We held one of our Advisory Committee meetings on December 1, 2023, and they shared the following ideas with us:

- Education on Potassium and Magnesium nutrients and grapevines
- How do we market the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program to get all grape growers research-based information?
- How to use soil and tissue testing data
- Economics of Precision Viticulture and Spatial Data
- EPA and decision on Ziram
- Disease Management – there was a lot of Downy Mildew this year, economics of additional sprays to keep leaves clean and support crop
- How many berries does it take to fall on the ground that equates to a ton
- Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration
- Investment in Equipment is a barrier to adoption
- What do we do when Spotted Lanternfly reaches LERGP vineyards
- Economics of stakes at every vine
- How do you renovate a vineyard?
- Autonomous Vineyards

We are very grateful for those who attended and shared their ideas with us. We have already started to develop programming around their thoughtful input.
Transición al Supervisor (Transitioning to Supervisor) helps to develop leaders and focuses on skills to improve communication and manage conflict. Learn how to recognize our inherent biases and how to build better working relationships. Gain insight into your leadership style and learn how to effectively lead diverse and multicultural teams.

5-week online course outline:

- How to make the mental transition to supervisor
- How to develop effective working relationships
- Essential communication skills
- How to be the leader of a multicultural group
- How to build better working relationships

Organizing Work for High-Quality Results

Organizing Work for High Quality Results teaches farm supervisors how to develop clear expectations and delegate effectively. Learn how to implement a quality management system on your farm, create your own standard operating procedures, and develop processes to streamline work and improve results.

6-week online course outline:

- Setting clear expectations
- Effective delegation
- Quality management systems
- Organizing processes and workplace organization
- Aligning HR management with social responsibility expectations

How to enroll

$275 per person

Pre-registration is required prior to the start of each course.

Register for ASL 101-SP: Transitioning to Supervisor
Register for ASL 106: Ethics and Employee Regulations

More Information
For questions, contact Rachel McCarthy, Supervisory Leadership Certificate Program Coordinator, at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu.
Public Notice

30-day period of the inclusion of predominantly viable agricultural lands into existing agricultural districts

Per New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b, the Chautauqua County Legislature has designated January 2 through January 31 as the annual thirty-day period during which landowners may submit requests to include predominantly viable agricultural land into an existing certified agricultural district.

The Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development will accept applications from January 2 through January 31. Please submit all inclusion requests to the Department of Planning and Development, 201 West Third Street Suite 115 Jamestown, NY 14701 or email to sharpl@chqgov.com on or before 4:30 PM on January 31, 2023. Any questions on this process should be directed to the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development.

The Agricultural District Inclusion Worksheet, current Agricultural District Maps, and additional information can be found on the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD) website at bit.ly/CHQaginclusion.

At the end of the thirty (30) day period, the proposed parcels requested for inclusion will be submitted to the Chautauqua County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). Based on the AFPB’s recommendations, a report will be prepared for the Planning and Economic Development (PED) Legislative Committee’s review. After review by the PED Legislative Committee the recommendation will be forwarded to the County Legislature for a public hearing. Following the public hearing, the Legislature will vote via resolution to accept the recommendations made by AFPB. The County Legislature will then send the resolution to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to certify the inclusion of lands or not. If the Commissioner certifies the inclusion of the parcels, the land will become part of the Agricultural District.

An agricultural district is a geographic area which consists predominantly of viable agricultural land. Agricultural operations within the district are the priority land use and afforded benefits and protections to promote the continuation of farms and the preservation of agricultural land. This should not be confused with the agricultural assessment program which allows eligible farmland to be taxed at its agricultural assessment. Landowners should see their local assessor to find out more information on agricultural assessment for their parcel(s).

Contact:
Lauren Sharp, Junior Planner
Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Development
201 West Third Street Suite 115
Jamestown, New York 14701
Phone: (716) 661-8245
Email: sharpl@chqgov.com
JANUARY 2ND – 31ST  
AG. DISTRICT INCLUSION PERIOD

Application Period for 2024

Chautauqua County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board will be accepting applications from landowners to have their predominately viable agricultural lands including into a New York State Certified Agricultural District. Application must be received by no later than 4:30pm on January 31st to Lauren Sharp at sharpl@chqgov.com or mail to the Department of Planning & Development.

For more information contact Lauren Sharp at sharp@chqgov.com or go to bit.ly/CHQaginclusion.

Ag. District Inclusion  
Checklist

_____ Complete an Ag. District Inclusion Application
Available at: bit.ly/CHQaginclusion

_____ Provide relevant portion of tax map
Available at: bit.ly/CHQgis

_____ Submit to sharpl@chqgov.com

Chautauqua County
Department of Planning & Development
201 West Third St Suite 115
Jamestown, New York 14701
716-661-8900
Planningchautauqua.com
How are agricultural districts reviewed?
Districts are usually renewed every 8 years. The Chautauqua County Legislature, after receiving the report and recommendation of the Chautauqua County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) and after a public hearing, determines that the district will be continued and modified. During the review process, land may be added or deleted from the district.

In addition to the 8-year review, counties are also required by NYS Agriculture & Markets Law (AML) §303-b to designate an annual 30-day period when landowners may petition the county for inclusion of viable agricultural lands in an existing agricultural district. For Chautauqua County, that 30-day period occurs every year in January and is referred to as the 303-b process.

Do Agricultural Districts consist entirely of farmland?
Districts must consist predominantly of viable agricultural land. Predominance has been interpreted as more than 50 percent of land in farms. On average, districts statewide contain approximately 70 percent farmland. The benefits and protections under the Agriculture & Markets Law, however, apply only to farm operations and land used in agricultural production.

Do Agricultural Districts prohibit selling land?
No. Being in an agricultural district does not prohibit the selling of land. New York State Agricultural District Law (ADL) does not restrict the transfer of real property. The ADL does provide for a real estate transfer disclosure by the seller to the prospective purchaser. The disclosure states if the property is located within an agricultural district and if farming activities including noise, dust and odors occur within the district. Prospective residents are also informed if the location of the property within an agricultural district may impact the ability to access water and/or sewer services.

Limitation on Local Regulation
An increase in the number of non-farm residents in agricultural areas may result in new zoning and regulatory actions that can inhibit farming operations. To safeguard against this, §305-a of the NYS AML prohibits the local enactment and administration of comprehensive plans, laws, ordinances, rules or regulations that would unreasonably restrict or regulate farm operations within an agricultural district, unless it can be shown that the public health or safety is threatened.

The Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) may independently or upon a complaint initiate a review of the enactment or administration of a local law. The Commissioner is authorized to bring an action or issue an order to enforce NYS AML §305-a.

NYSDAM has developed guidelines on the effect of §305-a on enactment and administration of local laws and regulations. More information can be found on the NYSDAM website at: https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/section-305-review-restrictive-laws

Sound Agricultural Practices
The Commissioner of NYSDAM may, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Agriculture (ACA), issue opinions upon request as to whether a particular agricultural practice is sound (AML §308). A sound agricultural practice refers to the practices necessary for the on-farm production, preparation, and marketing of agricultural commodities. An agricultural practice conducted in an agricultural district or on land receiving an agricultural assessment shall not constitute a private nuisance provided that the practice is determined to be a sound agricultural practice pursuant to an opinion of the Commissioner. The Commissioner is also authorized, in consultation with the ACA, to issue advisory opinions on a case-by-case basis as to whether particular land uses are agricultural in nature.

Chautauqua County’s Agricultural Districts

Enacted in 1971, New York’s Agricultural Districts Law (ADL) is a very effective tool for maintaining lands in agriculture, and ensuring New York’s position as an outstanding agricultural state.

New York State Agriculture & Markets Law recognizes that agricultural lands are important and irreplaceable resources, which are in jeopardy of being lost as a result of development pressures and regulatory constraints. The creation and continuation of Agricultural Districts in Chautauqua County provide right-to-farm protections for active agricultural operations.

Modified by the Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Development
November 2023
I have recently learned about the fantastic harvest that grape growers had this year in the Lake Erie region, only compared to that one in 2021, which was the largest so far. It got me thinking – the good news highlights the importance of preparing for the upcoming season. There is a chance that the yields in 2024 might not be as plentiful as those in 2021 and 2023. On top of that, this season brought some challenges with diseases like downy mildew, which could mean more issues next season as more inoculum level could have been built in the fields. So, it is crucial to focus on proper pruning this winter and removing extra leaves and debris near the base of the vines. Moreover, if your fields faced humidity problems, it is a good idea to examine your blocks for areas with poor drainage. Minimizing standing water, which otherwise encourages the spread of the fungus, should be considered.

In other matters we are teaming up to create a handy Spotted Lanternfly pocket guide, designed to assist our grape growers. Our goal is to provide essential information and tips to help you prepare for the imminent arrival of this pest in our vineyards. We have gathered valuable insights from the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Advisory committee meeting on December 1, as well as input from participants in the Spray Program meeting, on December 5. Our aim is to make the guide accessible to the public before the winter meeting.

Stay tuned for a useful tool coming your way, and let’s be proactive and prepare for a successful upcoming season!
YOU’RE GREAT AT FARMING.
WE’RE GREAT AT INSURANCE.

BETTS
INSURANCE AGENCY

27 E MAIN STREET
WESTFIELD, NY
716 269 4322

NATIONWIDE AGROBUSINESS
On Your Side
Farm Certified Agency

FERTILEADER®
GOLD
Worth its Weight

TimaCal
Designed to Increase Calcium Uptake

Contact us:
Michael Intrieri: 716 421-1785
Kayla Heineman: 718 714-8281
Laing-Gro Fertilizer: 716 992-3830

www.us.timacagro.com

Clover Hill Sales LLC
10401 Sidehill Road, North East, PA 16428
814-725-3102
sales@cloverhillsales.com

www.cloverhillsales.com

Durand Wayland
Woods Equipment Company

EDWARDS
Equipment Company

TISCO
STOLTZFUS
SPREADERS

Harvester Parts and Belting
Southern Yellow Pine Posts
Tractor Tires & Tubes • And So Much More!
EPA Mitigation Proposal Update: Ziram

Today, the EPA hosted a webinar to address concerns and to outline new measures for mitigating risks pertaining to the use of three commonly used fungicides: ziram, thiram, and ferbam. The LERGP team has been closely monitoring information regarding ziram for several years at the request of our growers to provide timely information.

The EPA has made the following statements regarding ziram:

“

Risks of Concern from ziram use for fish (both freshwater and estuarine/marine), aquatic invertebrates, mammals, birds, and terrestrial invertebrates. Also, there are dermal and inhalation exposures to occupational handlers, post-application occupational risks (dermal), and bystander (non-occupational) risks to adults (dermal) and children (combined dermal and incidental oral).

*Despite the updates and recommendations presented during the public comment period for the 2021 proposed interim decision, it did not change the previous risk picture and proposal.

Proposed Mitigation

- Conventional Uses
  - Cancellation of all uses

- Antimicrobial Uses
  - Cancellation of the paint preservative uses
  - Engineering controls for the non-paint materials preservative uses
  - Reducing the maximum application rate in all ziram-preserved building materials
  - Limiting application to the dry-end of the paper preservation process

This is the last stage of the re-registration process for a pesticide with an active label registration. If you would like more information regarding the re-registration process, you can find that information here: EPA Pesticide Re-registration Process

A breakdown of the timeline for ziram usage:

January-March 2024: The Proposed Interim Decision (PID) will be published and posted for final public comment. This is the text above in quotations, which includes the cancellation of the registration in all cropping systems, on all operations.

60 Days: From publication of PID, there will be a final 60-day public comment period. This information will be forwarded to our members as soon as it is available, HOWEVER, the EPA representatives and the above quoted text demonstrate that without SIGNIFICANT amounts of comments and new data, their decision is unlikely to change.
60-180 Days: After the 60-day comment period closes, the EPA will review the comments and finalize the decisions, including publishing the Interim or Final Decision (ID or FD).

3-6 months: Once the Final Decision is made, it takes up to six months (but as little as three months) to review updated labels, receive a federal letter, and stamp it.

12 Months: From the date the federal letter is stamped, there is a 12-month “grace period” to utilize or responsibly dispose of any remaining product within the supply chain. This includes on-farm products and products located at suppliers and distributors.

Key takeaways:

- The EPA has proposed cancelation of the registration of ziram in all cropping systems, on all operations.

- A 60-day comment period will open by March of 2024.

- Unless a high volume of comments is received, the EPA’s decision is unlikely to change.

- On the current timeline, growers will have two growing seasons (2024 and 2025) to utilize ziram, using ziram beyond the proposed timeline will be a violation of the label and the law.

The only recourse that we have at this time is to participate in the public comment period which will open after the first of the year. We will continue to follow this issue as it progresses so that our growers can make timely decisions regarding their choices in spray materials for the next season. If you have concerns about replacing ziram as a part of your regimen, please reach out to the LERGP team and we will be happy to provide you with alternative options.

For timely information regarding the EPA’s guidance on pesticide use and mitigation strategies, they are encouraging ALL growers to check the “Bulletins Live! 2” website. This website contains the most current information regarding pesticide use registration addendums, Pesticide Use Limitations Areas (PULAs), and Endangered Species Act compliance strategies.

EPA’s Bulletin Live! 2 Website can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins

If you have difficulty navigating the “Bulletins Live! 2” website, stay tuned for additional training opportunities through the LERGP.
**NEWA**

The East Westfield station has been offline since Tuesday, November 28\(^{th}\). After trying a couple of the usual resets and being in contact with support for Rainwise it was decided that the cellular modem needed to be sent in to see if it “froze.” We hope to get it back online soon before any cold events take place.

The Hanover station has been struggling with connection for the past couple of days but it is being worked out and hopefully will be resolved in the near future.

Our Portland (R block) station is also experiencing some issues. This is the new KestrelMet station that was originally placed near the railroad tracks at the bottom of the Concord block at CLEREL. Once the canopy started filling in we had trouble keeping it connected to the WiFi, so it was moved up closer to the station and barn. Even in this new spot and with a WiFi extender there were connection issues that were becoming more frequent. This station was boxed up this week as well and sent in to be examined by the technicians at Neilsen Kellermen.

Other than that we have just had the usual occasional outages that happen and some plugged rain buckets. If you notice anything that doesn’t seem right with any of the stations please contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu.

**VIP**

If you or someone you know has been considering using this grant to help cover costs of a Concord vineyard removal, now is the time! All work will need to be completed before the end of the 2024 growing season to be considered for reimbursement. That includes making sure that the agricultural crop planted in the vineyard footprint is growing without or with minimal “volunteer” grapevines. The replant portion of the program is still in effect, but again, all work needs to be completed by the end of the 2024 growing season.

To learn more about the grant and apply go to lerpg.com and click on the Vineyard Improvement Program button or contact Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu or 716-792-2800 ext 209.
Far past the frozen leaves

There’s no end to the potential hazards your crops face: freeze, hail, wind, insects and disease. And those are just the natural disasters. As a fruit farmer, you also have to deal with other variables like fluctuating market prices.

Crop Growers is here to help. Our multi-peril crop insurance will protect your business when Mother Nature (or the market) lashes out, making sure you’re still standing when the skies clear.

Call a Crop Growers agent today.

Own Rooted & Grafted
Certified Grapevines

Berries, Hops, Wine Making, Vineyard Supplies & More

www.doubleavineyards.com

10317 Christy Rd
Fredonia, NY 14063
716-672-8493

CROP GROWERS
Your first choice for crop insurance.

ACTUAL PRODUCTION HISTORY PLAN
WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION
CROP HAIL COVERAGE

800.234.7012 | CropGrowers.com

CROP GROWERS, LLP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER
NO MATTER THE REASON,
NO MATTER THE SEASON,
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.
ALWAYS FREE, ALWAYS CONFIDENTIAL
financial analysis + decision making
personal well-being | retirement + estate planning
family business relationships | business planning
communication | coping with COVID-19 stress
referrals to additional resources
AVAILABLE TO NY FARMERS, FARM
FAMILIES AND AGRIBUSINESS EMPLOYEES.

nyFarmNet
1-800-547-3276 | www.nyfarmnet.org