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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.
Registration is OPEN for the 2024 Winter Grape Grower Conference!

REGISTER

We can’t wait to see you at the conference this year!
In the Vineyard
Welcome to 2024! I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season and find yourself rested and ready to tackle this new year. In regard to tackling the weather, we have experienced mild winter weather conditions thus far this dormant season.

Testing Cold Hardiness
Each winter, Cornell Extension staff from the Lake Erie region collect samples of grape buds to test their ability to withstand cold temperatures. 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. We have been monitoring on a weekly basis and you can access that information here: Click Here for Cold Hardiness Data. Figure 1. below is the graph that can be found for Concord cold hardiness data. The daily high temperature is the red line and the daily minimum temperature is the blue line. The Lethal Temperature (LT) Exotherm data for 90, 50, and 10 % bud mortality is charted and the freezing tolerance model data is too. If the blue line crosses the LT or model below, that is an indication that damage could be present. Our blue line for Concord at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory has not even come close to date.

Figure 1. Cold Hardiness data for this dormant season at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY.
Technology Tuesdays
January 16, 2024, is the first of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program’s Technology Tuesdays. It will be held at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY, located at 6592 W. Main Road between the hours of 9 AM through 12 PM. The second Technology Tuesday will be on February 13, 2024. Our growers asked for more opportunities to come in and learn more about the MyEV Tool and how it may benefit them in their operations. MyEV Tool is a precision agricultural tool that was developed for the grape industry through the 6.2 million dollar Specialty Crop Research Initiative grant the Efficient Vineyard Project under the Project Leader, Dr. Terry Bates. This successful project led to another grant with Dr. Terry Bates through NIFA’s AFRI grant, Cost effective spatial data visualization and decision support for small and medium-sized vineyards. It is our goal to engage producers to use personalized digital agriculture solutions in their own operations. The problem is that most small producers do not have the tools (process) or information (content) or experience (high impact activities) to achieve transformational education in digital agriculture. Integrating research-based digital agriculture education, new spatial processing tools, and producer-led on-farm activities will lead to transformational education in spatial-data driven variable-rate farm management.

The MyEV Tool is a way for researchers and growers to collect data in your vineyards/orchards/any commodity from daily observations or sensors, get that data out of your brain/data logger, and allow you to visualize it on a map. This tool collects data with a GIS location and snaps it to a normalized, common grid which is 3 x 3 meters. Basically, the MyEV Tool is a super simple centralized way to pull data that you are collecting, visualize it spatially, and make decisions for what to do next. Interested in exploring how digital agriculture technology can benefit your farm but not sure how to get started? MyEV was developed as a free, web-based tool to help growers collect, process, and use spatial data for their own vineyard management. MyEV helps organize information by farms, blocks, and sub-block spatial data. Start your exploration by creating and entering information about your farm location, ownership, and preferences. Use easy point and click tools to draw your farm blocks, add block level information, and change visualization settings. Then identify your team collaborators and invite them to interact with your farm on their desktop or smartphone.

At this Technology Tuesday, learn how to map absolutely anything on your farm with a cell phone. Create Your Own Data Collector - Start simple! Not ready to jump into new ag technology with both feet but want to easily map broken posts, gopher holes, irrigation leaks, nutrient deficiencies, virus symptoms, insect damage, or just about anything you want? Create your own mobile scouting tool with the MyEV Data Collector. Share it with your team and start mapping. Digital agriculture solutions are having positive impacts on farming and the environment and will only continue to grow. Come in and learn how the MyEV Tool can work for you. Your
cell phone and laptop are required for this training. There are tutorial videos for those of you who are interested but may not be available on the Technology Tuesday dates and they can be found by Clicking Here.


Fourth Annual Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Webinar Series
The fourth annual edition of the Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum webinar series will cover timely topics in the grape and wine industry.

The fourth edition of the Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum (EVEF) webinar series is a collaborative effort between the Penn State Extension Grape and Wine Team and the following land grant institutions: Colorado State University, Cornell University, University of Georgia, Iowa State University, University of Maryland, Ohio State University, and Rutgers University. Along with webinar presenters, several viticulture and enology Extension specialists will coordinate and serve as panelists throughout the EVEF series. The webinars are intended for vineyard owners, winery owners, vineyard managers, and winemakers.

The series is delivered free to participants, though pre-registration is required to access the live webinars. All webinars will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET on select Wednesdays (details in the below table). This article was originally published online and has been updated. Please Click Here for the Registration Links for the below programs.
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**Table 1. Fourth Annual Eastern Viticulture and Enology Forum Webinar Series dates and topics**

This news article will be updated with webinar registration links as they become available. The “viticulture-focused webinar” links will also be posted to the [Penn State Extension Grape and Wine Production website](https://www.extension.psu.edu/grape-and-wine-production). This article was written by Cain Hickey and Molly Kelly of Penn State Extension.

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Environmental Protection Agency Mitigation Proposal Update: Ziram/Thiram/Ferbam

Recently, 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. This article contains a few updates to the original article, as a revised document was released prior to the winter holidays with a more accurate timeline for the proposed label changes.

It is crucial to our growers to understand what changes are being made to label requirements so that we can aid growers in staying in compliance with these new measures. These three fungicides are “old” chemistries, many growers have been utilizing them in their standard rotations for decades, meaning that major changes in label requirements may come as a surprise. The EPA is heavily leaning on the use of their “Bulletins Live 2” website to disseminate these changes, as well timing for open public comment periods regarding use, therefore many demographics are at a disadvantage in terms of receiving this information in a timely manner.

Please share this information and raise awareness when possible. Docket numbers and methods for making comments on these issues will follow once they are available.

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
Additional Discussion

- For MRLs, different FRNs will be completed to cancel the tolerances.
  - It won’t happen immediately but there will be a public comment period before finalization of any tolerance changes.
- Why would tolerances be cancelled if there were no dietary concerns?
  - We wouldn’t like to keep tolerances if uses are cancelled unless for good reason.
  - Please comment on the amended PID with reasoning/explanation to retain tolerance(s). This has been done in the past if considered necessary.
- When risks are evaluated, are the maximum labeled rate, total sale of product, and total sale of product part of the risk assessment/consideration?
  - EPA looks at maximum application rate registered, then will go through use patterns and delineate rates by the use pattern.
  - A lower application rate is a possible mitigation used to refine risks and would have to be placed on the label.
    - Registrants can comment about possible application rate reduction during the 60-day comment period.

Next Steps

- The amended PIDs for thiram, ferbam and ziram are currently scheduled to be published by the end of January 2024.
  - Amended PIDs and assessments of the three chemicals will go out together, but ziram may come out earlier since there wasn’t much change in the assessments and potential mitigation from the previous PID.
- There will be a 60-day comment period after the amended PID is published.
  - EPA will review comments and respond in a response to comments document and may reach out to stakeholders for further discussion if needed.
- What is the EDSP path forward?
  - Currently, we do not have any information to share as EPA is still working on EDSP.
- The interim decision (ID) is published typically 2 quarters after the PID to have time for response to comments and assessments.
  - Labels are then due 60 days after the ID publication. There will be 12 months to use existing stocks for cancellation, though the 12 months starts after the label is stamped. The ID will specify information about labels and next steps for registrants to follow.

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](EPA Pesticide Re-registration Process)

A breakdown of the timeline for ziram*/thiram/ferbam usage:

*Ziram may be separated from the other two for public comment and maintain a separate docket thereafter
January 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 cancelation 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.

July 2024: 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). As per above, the ID is expected to be published two quarters after the PID, which is expected by the end of January.

September 2024: Once the Final Decision is made, labels are updated within 60 days and sent for a federal stamp. It can take more than 60 days total 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 for all three fungicides will open by end of January of 2024, with ziram possibly being placed on a separate docket from the other two.

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

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

- Updates regarding mitigation strategies in response to the Endangered Species Act and special label requirements will only be found on the “Bulletins Live! 2” website.

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.

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

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Who is this for?
- Commercial farmers: PA, NY, OH
- Field and farm managers
- Green Industry professionals
- Landscape workers
- Pesticide applicators

What will you learn?
- Pesticide Labels are the Law: WPS, EPA updates and changes
- Farm Stress Resources
- Regional Extension Programs, Upcoming Events
- Optimizing Herbicide Applications in Corn and Soy Production
- Landscape Pest Update: A review of problems and emerging pests
- Review of Tomato Disease
- IPM in Perennial Cropping Systems: A refresher for fruit growers

*Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status.*
Our lack of sunshine in recent days has been wreaking havoc with the KestrelMet stations in the region. In some of the stations the solar panels have been unable to collect enough energy from the sun to recharge the batteries sufficiently to allow the stations to operate as they are designed. When this happens the stations enter a “logging” mode during which they are able to log all of the weather data, but they are not able to continually send the data to be viewed on either Ambient Weather or on the NEWA website. Instead of the frequent intervals (minutely for Ambient Weather and hourly for NEWA), the data is sent in one “packet” per day. You might notice if you frequently check the weather data on NEWA that there will be estimated data that is replaced the next day with actual data. That is the explanation behind that.

Thankfully the NEWA website is able to estimate the missing values. Temperature and relative humidity are estimated using a two-step process:

1. The data record is examined for non-missing temperature or relative humidity values in the previous hour and the next hour. If both are found, an average of the two is used as an estimate.
2. If the previous hour and the next hour values are unavailable, temperature or relative humidity data from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction’s Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RMTA) and Unrestricted Mesoscale Analysis (URMS) for the nearest location grid are used.

_Precipitation and wind direction_ missing data are sourced from the RTMA and URMA archive.

_Solar radiation_ missing data are estimated based on sky cover data from the RTMA and URMA archive.

Missing Weather Variables information taken directly from the NEWA website at [https://newa.cornell.edu/how-newa-handles-weather-data](https://newa.cornell.edu/how-newa-handles-weather-data).
The East Westfield station is back online as of yesterday at 4:30PM. The modem had frozen so was shipped off for maintenance and appears to be good now.

VIP
We are officially in the last year of the Vineyard Improvement Program. If you have been considering using it to help finance removing a problem vineyard, now is the time. Applications are still being accepted with the understanding that all projects presented at this time will need to be completed by the end of the growing season this year. All reimbursements will need to be distributed by January 2025 so that we can get the program wrapped up by March 2025. This program is for Concord vineyards of at least 1 acre that are in Chautauqua, Erie (NY), Niagara, Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Tioga Counties in New York. To learn more go to [https://lergp.com/about-vip](https://lergp.com/about-vip) or email Kim at ksk76@cornell.edu. The program is up to 56 applicants and 31 completed projects. Just over 650 acres of Concord vineyard has been enrolled in the project and has been/will be replaced by: multiple grape varieties including Concord, apples, peaches, cover crop, field crops, pasture, hayfield, Christmas trees, nut trees, and even solar farms.