



LERGP Crop Update September 12, 2024

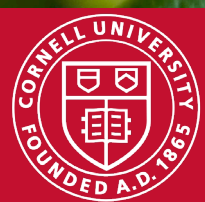
*photo credit:
Kim Knappenberger*

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



PennState Extension

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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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Business Management

Andrew Holden, Business Management Educator, Penn State University, LERGP

\$600 COVID relief funds still available for farm employees

Source: <https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2024/09/10/600-covid-relief-funds-still-available-for-farm-employees/>

New York employers should direct employees to Pasa's [Farm and Food Workers Relief Program \(farmworkers.com\)](#) to receive their \$600 relief payment.

The U.S. Government budgeted \$667 million in grant funding “to defray worker expenses incurred preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.” USDA distributed the funds to fourteen nonprofit organizations, find more details at this [USDA site](#). The funds are supposed to be distributed to frontline farm and food employees who worked in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. For New York farmers, a trusted partner to direct employees to receive this payment is [Pasa Sustainable Agriculture](#).

Pasa set up a dedicated website to administer the [Farm and Food Workers Relief Program](#). NY employers should direct employees to this website [farmworkers.com](#) to access this payment if they are eligible. All details about eligibility and other matters can be found at the Pasa site, but it is minimal, consisting of photo identification and proof of employment.

Pasa's team of Customer Support associates are available for assistance via email at support@pasafarming.org (English) and aypoyo@pasafarming.org (Español). You can also reach them via phone toll free at (833) 469-3397 during the following hours:

Monday, 4–8 pm (EDT)

Tuesday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm (EDT)

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm; 4–8 pm (EDT)

Pasa also developed a flyer about the program in English and Spanish, download here: [Pasa FFWR Flyer – English – Spanish](#)

Monitoring for Change on Your Farm Pays Off

Source: <https://smallfarmcourses.com/p/bf-112-reading-the-land>

How do we confirm and/or measure improved land health? We must learn how to read the land as we walk across it, and learn how to conduct various biological monitoring practices, from simple to more complex. There is only one guarantee in agriculture or other land-based businesses: “When we improve land health we realize improvements in production, profitability, and social well-being.” Our 4-week intensive “[Reading the Land](#)” online course will enable you to begin successfully understanding observations and information you can easily gather from a piece of land.

[Register Now: Reading the Land](#)

This course will allow you to establish a baseline of the land's health and determine if your

management decisions are moving toward what you desire for the land in terms of health and productivity. Farmers, farm managers, and other landowners interested in learning how to improve land health through the power of observation, data gathering and interpretation will benefit from this course.

In this course you will learn how to:

- Make visual observations
- Develop a monitoring transect
- Collect data
- Summarize and analyze the data you collect
- Use these data to change your management to move the land toward what you want

The bulk of the course happens on your own time, with discussions, readings, and assignments in Teachable, our online course platform. To add to the experience, live webinars will be held during the live instruction period — September 24 to October 15 on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. ET. These webinars allow you to meet on a weekly basis to learn from presenters and ask questions in real-time. If you miss one, they are always recorded and posted for later viewing.

Meet the Instructor:

Phil Metzger is a farm and natural resources development consultant, retired from a 31-year career as a Resource Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Phil instructs on various topics including biological monitoring, land planning, farm, personal & business financial planning, goal setting, and improved decision making. He is a certified educator of Holistic Management (HM) and has personally practiced HM for over 20 years.

QuickBooks for Farmers

Source: <https://smallfarmcourses.com/p/bf-204-quickbooks-for-farmers>

Mondays: September 23 – October 28

Are you a beginning farmer? Or are you a current farmer with the desire to switch to an online accounting system? Then our quick guide to Quickbooks is for you. Learn the software's basic features, such as sales tax, inventory, invoicing, adjustments, and year-end procedures.

My contact information:

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

In the Vineyard

Harvest is well underway in the Lake Erie Region and there is a faint smell of grapes in the air. We are in week three of our Veraison to Harvest berry sampling and the results are in Table 1 below. We will continue to sample until all varieties are harvested. As of our Monday, September 9, 2024, collection, Concord in the frosted area were at 16.4 Brix which jumped two Brix from last week. Niagara was at 17.5 Brix with over 4 gram berries and Vignoles were harvested this week with final berry weight of 1.7 grams at 22.1 Brix. Seyval blanc and Gewurztraminer are really close to 21 Brix at 20.6 and 20.5 respectively. Discussions with Industry representatives reveal that in wine grapes they are wrapping up Elvira this week. They have ripened quickly, and lost acid quicker than they expected to see and the drop in TA (total acid) is evident in Table 1. They start Concord next week from both growing regions. Crop size in Lake Erie has been a little lower than estimate for most growers, but they are seeing good quality fruit in their sample blocks. Canopies look to be in good shape.

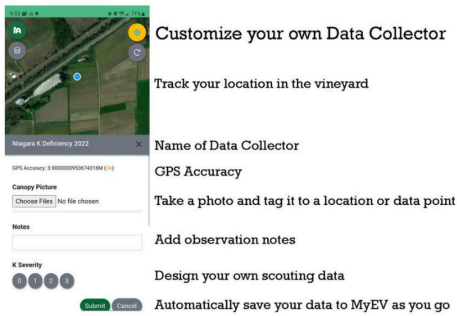
In the juice industry, Niagara harvest started and representative stated that the fruit is very clean and excellent quality. There is a wide range of yields coming in from across the belt, which is consistent with April frost damage. Concord harvest is scheduled to begin next week for National Grape and some early contracts with other processors have already begun.

Table 1. Cornell's Veraison to Harvest Lake Erie results for Week 3 sampled on 9/9/2024

Variety	9/9/24 Berry Weight	9/2/24 Berry Weight	9/9/24 Brix	9/2/24 Brix	9/9/24 pH	9/2/24 pH	9/9/24 TA	9/2/24 TA	9/9/24 YAN	8/26/24 YAN
Concord	373.2	361.8	16.4	14.4	3.19	3.11	12.1	12.7	213	160
Niagara	398.4	410.7	17.5	16.4	3.29	3.25	7.8	7.4	176	134
Seyval blanc	157.0	149.8	20.6	19.2	3.19	3.11	9.4	10.3	173	162
Marquette	HARVESTED	150.4	HARVESTED							

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program have been out in vineyards all week and for the most part the canopy and fruit look clean. There are some Concord vineyards that are beginning to see powdery mildew. If you are one of those, be mindful of inoculum in heavy areas for target sprays next year. As you are harvesting, consider using MyEV to geo-locate noxious weed species that may require extra attention when time permits (Photo 1). You can create a data collector to record the areas with GIS and be able to return to it and treat; this may occur when the perennial weed is dormant and hard to remember where it was. The data point create in MyEV will allow you to direct efforts efficiently. You can watch how to do that here: [Click Here for Data Collector Tutorial](#). You can also create a data collector for record where you may or may not have clipped an end post while harvesting or broke a wire to make your repair efforts more efficient. 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. Log in by creating your account and start building your farm today. [Click Here to Get Started with MyEV.](#)



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.

Photo 1. MyEV screenshot from the efficientvineyard.com website

Below are photos taken yesterday, September 11, 2024, of Niagara harvest on a gorgeous day and Photo 2. is a view of Lake Erie beyond a Concord vineyard. This lake is what buffers our climate in this cool-climate grape growing region keeping summer temperatures cooler and winter temperatures milder providing weather conducive to grape growing.



Please keep safety in mind this harvest season from driving harvesters and farm equipment down the road, operating at night, and delivering your grapes your safety and the safety of others are top priority. I hope that you have a safe and productive harvest and please reach out with any questions.

Photo 2. View of Lake Erie beyond a Concord vineyard



Photo 3. Niagara bulk harvested grapes ready to be delivered



Photo 4. Chase tractor and gondolas ready to join the Niagara harvest

As to be expected, both the Concord Berry Weights and Brix for this season are above average. This is due to the low tonnage in the frost areas.

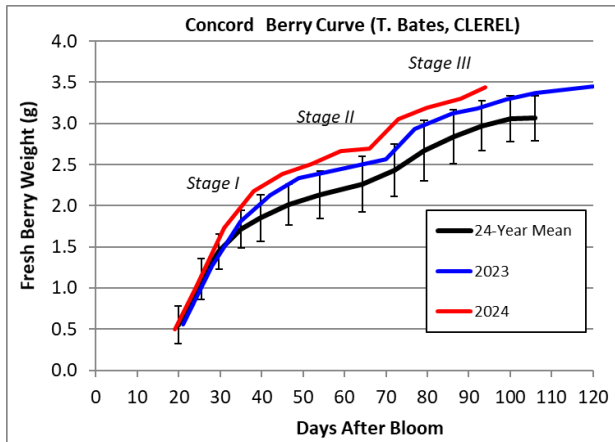


Figure 1. Dr. Terry Bates Concord Berry Curve for Week of 9-9-2024

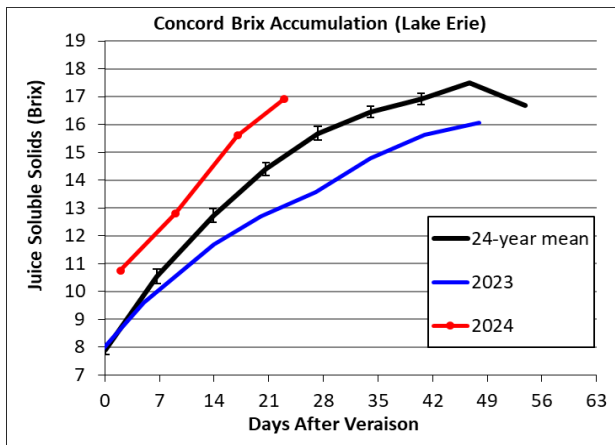


Figure 2. Dr. Terry Bates Concord Brix Accumulation as of Week 9-9-2024

Mancozeb Update

See the pasted letter from EPA that extends the date for mancozeb comments until October 16th. I know that most of you are in the middle of harvest, so I hope this will help to provide a little more time for you to review the mancozeb document and to respond to EPA with any concerns you might have. Thank you for all of the work that you have done thus far and please respond to the [survey](#) that Dr. Katie Gold requested if you have not done so yet.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND
POLLUTION PREVENTION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Authorization to extend the public comment period by 30 days for the Proposed Interim Decision for Mancozeb

FROM: Kelly Sherman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Sherman".

Chief, Risk Management and Implementation Branch III (RMIB III) Pesticide Re-evaluation Division

THROUGH: Anne Overstreet, Director

Pesticide Re-evaluation Division Office of
Pesticide Programs

This memorandum authorizes a 30-day extension of the comment period on the proposed interim decision (PID) for mancozeb, which is currently available for public comment in the registration review docket for this case. The documents are accessible at <https://www.regulations.gov>; the docket ID number is EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291.

On July 16, 2024, a Federal Register Notice was published announcing the availability and opening of a 60-day public comment period on the PID for mancozeb as part of the registration review process required under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. The deadline for submitting comments on these documents was announced as September 16, 2024, which was 60 days from the date that the Federal Register Notice published.

Between August 2 and September 2, EPA received ten requests to extend the public comment period. Most requests asked for an additional 60-90 days. Requesters cited a variety of reasons for needing an extension, including the time-consuming nature of developing comprehensive responses to a complex PID and supporting documents, which requires coordination with growers and their representatives; the volume of registration review documents for other cases that are competing for requesters' time; the extensive amount of stakeholder engagement needed to develop responses to EPA seed treatment questions and the time required to carry this out; the timing of comment period coinciding with the harvest of many affected crops, which limits opportunity to solicit grower and advisor feedback; and the need to develop detailed information to inform EPA's decision making process.

After consideration of the request, EPA is extending the comment period for the mancozeb draft risk assessments by 30 days. The original closing date was September 16, 2024. The new closing

date is October 16, 2024. The mancozeb case, docket number, and contact information are listed below.

Registration Review Case Name and Number	Docket ID Number	Chemical Review Manager and Contact Information
Mancozeb Case 0643	EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291	Ben Tweed Tweed.Benjamin@epa.gov 202-566-2274

Commenters should identify the docket ID for mancozeb and submit the comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information or other information for which disclosure is restricted by statute. Please be aware that the Agency is currently not accepting paper submissions because of COVID-19.

Additional instructions on commenting and visiting the docket are available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

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The following article on farm safety was published on the Pennsylvania Morning Ag Clips this morning on September 12, 2024, [Click Here](#). I know that it is about dairy, but the same principles apply and I care about your safety.

National Farm Safety and Health Week

National Farm Safety Week Starts Sept. 15

These Farm Safety Tools and Resources Are Available to Dairy Producers at No Cost

PUBLISHED ON September 11, 2024



Katie Dotterer narrated all videos in the safety video series. Dotterer grew up on her family's dairy farm and shares her passion for agriculture with others at www.agvokate.com.

HARRISBURG, Pa. — With National Farm Safety and Health Week starting on September 15, the Center for Dairy Excellence has a series of farm safety videos available to help dairy producers share simple safety reminders with farm employees all year long, but especially during the upcoming fall harvest season. The “Seconds for Your Safety” videos, which are approximately 60 seconds in length, are available in both English and Spanish. They can be watched and shared easily on a computer or cell phone.

The following videos are currently available in both English and Spanish:

- Staying Safe Around Animals
- Staying Safe Around Gasses
- Staying Safe Around Electrical Hazards
- Tractor and Truck Rollovers
- Fall Prevention Measures
- Youth on the Farm
- Safety Hazards and Precautions for Horizontal Silos

The Center also has free sets of farm safety signs available to help producers display important safety reminders throughout their facilities. Six different signs are available in the set, with a sign included in the mix that focuses on biosecurity. English and Spanish are both included on the signs. “Farm safety is important all year long, but September is a good time to refocus and put some extra thought into keeping your employees safe, especially during fall harvest,” said Valerie Mason-Faith,

Risk Education Program Manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. “These videos are quick and filled with helpful, everyday reminders to share with your team. The safety signs can help you make sure you have the proper safety precautions in place on your dairy operation.”

To request safety signs to be mailed to you while supplies last, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/farm-safety or call 717-346-0849.

“The “Seconds for Your Safety” videos are being watched by myself and others on our farm. I think what is most useful on our farm are the facts in the videos which make us aware of the dangers of our occupation. Farmers need to become safer in everything that we do. Hopefully these videos will help us,” said Diane Hartman of Scattered Acres Farm.

To watch the farm safety video series, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/farm-safety. The videos are available in English and Spanish. The Center also recently hosted a “Protecting Your Profits” webinar focused on farm safety. Dr. Florence Becot of Penn State University shared the top three farm safety risks and how to keep family members and employees safe. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/pyp to view a recording of the webinar.

If you know a dairy producer without Internet access who might benefit from watching these videos and webinar recordings, email Emily Barge at ebarge@centerfordairyexcellence.org or call 717-346-0849 to request access.

–Emily Barge, Center for Dairy Excellence

EPA Releases Draft Strategy to Better Protect Endangered Species from Insecticides

Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie, Cornell University Specialty Crop Weed Scientist, asked us to remind you of the article below and sent the following message:

Just a reminder that the public comment period for the EPA’s Draft Insecticide Strategy closes on **SEPTEMBER 23rd 2024**.

An EPA representative to the IR-4 Project Food Use Workshop just indicated that the release of the Final Insecticide Strategy will occur in March 2025 (hard court-imposed deadline).

Now is the time to provide the EPA with feedback regarding their proposal, which will shape insecticide use going forward.

WASHINGTON – Today, July 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its draft Insecticide Strategy for public comment, another milestone in the agency’s work to adopt early, practical protections for federally endangered and threatened (listed) species. The draft strategy identifies protections that EPA will consider when it registers a new insecticide or reevaluates an existing one. In developing this draft strategy, EPA identified protections to address potential impacts for more than 850 species listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS).

“Ensuring the safe use of insecticides is a critical part of EPA’s mission to protect endangered species and the environment,” said **Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Jake Li**. “This draft strategy is another major step in the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to protect endangered species, support farmers and other insecticide users, and provide critical environmental protections for communities across the

country.”

Today’s draft is part of EPA’s ongoing efforts to develop a more efficient, effective, and protective multichemical, multispecies approach to meeting its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). EPA focused the draft strategy on conventional insecticides used in agriculture in the lower 48 states, where approximately 34 million pounds of insecticides are applied each year. The draft identifies protections earlier in the pesticide review process, thus creating a far more efficient approach to evaluate and protect the FWS-listed species that live near these agricultural areas.

This draft strategy also incorporates lessons learned from EPA’s draft herbicide strategy that the agency released last year to minimize the impacts of agricultural herbicides on listed species. For example, based on feedback on the draft herbicide strategy, EPA designed the mitigations in the draft insecticide strategy to maximize the number of options for farmers and other pesticide users. These mitigation options also consider farmers who are already implementing measures to reduce pesticide runoff and those who are located in areas less prone to pesticide runoff, such as flat lands and regions with less rain to carry pesticides off fields. These measures also include the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Resources Conservation Service practices and state or private stewardship measures that are effective at reducing pesticide runoff.

Similar to the herbicide strategy, the draft insecticide strategy uses the most updated information and processes to determine whether an insecticide will impact a listed species and identify protections to address any impacts. To determine impacts, the draft strategy considers where a species lives, what it needs to reproduce (e.g., food or pollinators), where the pesticide will end up in the environment, and what kind of impacts the pesticide might have if it reaches the species. These refinements greatly reduce the need for pesticide restrictions in situations that do not benefit species.

Once final, the insecticide strategy will expedite future ESA consultations with FWS. In the draft strategy, EPA identified mitigations to address the potential impacts of insecticides on listed species even before EPA completes the ESA consultation process—which in many cases, can take five years or more. Further, once EPA finalizes the Insecticide Strategy, the agency and FWS expect to formalize their understanding of how this strategy can inform and streamline future ESA consultations for insecticides. Through a separate initiative, EPA is addressing potential impacts of insecticides to listed species and critical habitats protected by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

EPA’s decades-long approach of trying to meet these obligations chemical-by-chemical and species-by-species is slow and costly, resulting in litigation against the agency and uncertainty for farmers and other pesticide users about the continued availability of many pesticides. At the beginning of 2021, EPA faced nearly 20 lawsuits covering thousands of pesticide products due to its

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longstanding failure to meet ESA obligations for pesticides. Now, all of those lawsuits have been resolved as a result of the Biden-Harris Administration's new approaches for protecting endangered species, which include this draft strategy.

The draft Insecticide Strategy Framework and accompanying support documents are available in docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0299](#) for public comment for 60 days.

Visit EPA's website to learn more about how [EPA's pesticide program is protecting endangered species](#).

[Read the Draft Insecticide Strategy](#)



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Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Extension Support Specialist, LERGP

Station	Rainfall 9/6-9/9/24
Burt (NY Mesonet)	1.05
North Appleton	1.46
Newfane (Chateau Niag)	1.38
Ransomville	1.59
Lockport	1.88
Brant	1.85
Versailles	1.75
Sheridan	1.68
Silver Creek (RT5)	1.75
Silver Creek (Double A)	1.75
Hanover	1.66
Forestville	0.83
East Fredonia	1.53
Brocton	1.41
Portland (CLEREL)	1.29
Westfield (South)	2.14
East Westfield	1.12
Westfield	1.31
East Ripley	1.22
Ripley	1.15
Ripley (Escarpment)	1.11
North East (State Line)	1.09
North East Lab	0.84
North East (Escarpment)	0.90
North East (Side Hill)	0.69
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Harborcreek	0.85
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Region-wide we enjoyed a wet weekend over the 6th to the 9th with local precipitation totals indicated in the chart above. But as the weatherman on the radio put it... we seem to be in a nice weather rut! Not going to complain about that! The forecast for most of the region looks to be mostly clear and sunny with highs in the low 80s during the day and nights in the 60s until the 24th. Happy harvest!