



*LERGP Crop Update
March 27, 2025*



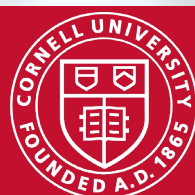
*Photo Credit-
Cara Lanning*

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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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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WHEN:

April 2, 2025
10am - Noon

WHERE:

Cornell Lake Erie Research
& Extension Laboratory
6592 W Main Road
Portland, NY 14769

EXAM DATE:

April 9, 2025
10:00am Start Time
Same Location

DISCUSSION TOPICS

NYS Pesticide
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April 2, 2025- 10:00am- Noon

\$25.00- please make the check payable to LERGP and mail to:

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Name:_____

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**You can register for the exam the day of the course.
You must bring a valid NYS ID and a check made
payable to NYSDEC for \$100.00.**

Business Management

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

Today, I am sharing more details on the currently open Northeast Regional Food Business Center's Business Builder Grant. The grant is open until April 7, so if you have any interest, please start the application process as soon as possible. To learn more please check out the [webpage](#) and the [Request for Application](#) online. I also spoke with the team administering the grant and was able to easily reach them at their

Business Builder Subawards

Award Amount: \$15,000 - \$100,000

Total Funding Available: \$10,000,000 Between 180 and 350 awards

Eligible Applicants: Farm and food businesses, including aquaculture and wild-caught fisheries, and non-profits with \$1M or less in annual revenue (Track C) or \$350,000 or less in annual revenue (Track A & B) are eligible to apply (funding track dependent)

Geographic Area New York, Erie County Pennsylvania

Allowable Funding Uses: Post-harvest activities (farm gate/landing to table), including processing, storage and transportation

- Special-purchase equipment
- Business planning
- Supply chain analysis and coordination
- Product development
- Market analysis
- Minor improvements, rearrangements or alterations of existing buildings or facilities
- Rental or lease of facilities or land
- Staff time

Not Allowable Purchasing: land, buildings, or real estate; construction, demolition, or major rehabilitation of any building, structure, or land; non-specialized equipment such as tractors, trucks, or trailers; production costs such as seeds or fertilizer

Additional Funding Considerations:

- No matching funds are required.
- Funds are taxable as income.
- Funds are reimbursable: Entities must spend funds first and will be reimbursed 60 days after request is submitted

What I'm Reading:

- [Treasury Announces that it Will Not Be Enforcing BOI Reporting for Domestic Companies](#) – Ag Docket ISU

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Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program's Winter Grower Conference

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program held our Annual Winter Conference on March 20, 2025, at SUNY Fredonia. It was well attended with approximately 100 attendees. Thank you to all our growers, industry members, and vendors who supported our educational program and for your great comments on the content. Our programming is designed through input received through our Advisory Committee. Growers like yourself meet with us to give us suggestions on what is timely and important to the success of your operations, and we tailor our programming based on your needs. We are so thankful to our Advisory Committee for their dedication, support, and guidance.

Per the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program's Guidelines *Attachment C*, which is pasted below for transparency, it is time to elect new seats to our committee. It appears that we need to immediately replace four members that have termed - one from each respective county: Erie NY, Erie PA, Niagara, and Cattaraugus. We have been asked by current members if they can stay on since they enjoy the process and the input, and I was informed that you may stay on and give input, but we still need new voting members. Please read the below information and consider being a member of the committee that informs our educational programs.

Stakeholder input through organized group meetings is important in identifying the current and critical needs of the producers and industry and in guiding the team to meet those needs. The extension staff will seek advice from the Program Advisory Committee in matters regarding the identification, analysis and prioritization of industry needs to be addressed through the extension education program.

A) The Program Advisory Committee consists of 15 members; 12 grower representatives and 3 processor representatives, jointly appointed by the Deans of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University and the College of Agricultural Sciences at Pennsylvania State University.

Eight of the growers come from Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara Counties in New York and 4 come from Erie County in Pennsylvania.

The 3 processor representatives are selected from across the two-state region.

The term of appointment of members of the Program Advisory Committee is two years. Appointments will not exceed two consecutive two-year terms. After two, two-year terms, a person may not be re-appointed within one year.

B) The Program Advisory Committee chair may establish ad hoc and/or standing work groups as needed to address specific extension education program emphases or issues.

C) 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.

Weed Management in Perennial Specialty Crops Opportunity

Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie sent us the below email communication to share with all of you:

We (weed and social scientists from Cornell, Rutgers, Arkansas, Purdue, UC Davis, Oregon State, Washington State University) want to make a last push to capture data about grower interest in novel weed control technology in perennial cropping systems.

Below is text describing the project and goals that you can use in e-mails, newsletters, on webpages, etc....

Many Thanks,
Lynn

Invitation to Participate in a Survey on Weed Management in Perennial Specialty Crops

A team of Weed Scientists and Sociologists are leading an SCRI planning grant that is conducting a short and anonymous survey about weed management technology in perennial specialty crops (i.e., tree fruits, tree nuts, grapes, and berries).

Effective weed control is essential for sustainable production and high-quality yields, but growers face several challenges, including limited herbicide availability, herbicide resistance, changing regulations, safety concerns, and the high cost and reduced availability of labor for hand weeding.

Although new weed control technologies (such as autonomous robots, precision sprayers, and electric weeders) have been developed, many growers may not be aware of these innovations or their effectiveness. Additionally, university scientists require more information on grower interest and willingness to adopt new technologies to guide future research.

The goals of this survey are to:

1. Identify what weed control tools and technologies growers know about/are be interested in.
2. Understand the factors that will drive or hinder the adoption of these technologies.

We invite you and your community members/stakeholders to participate in our survey to help us understand your experiences and interests in adopting new weed control technologies.

Your input will be invaluable in shaping future research and guiding the development of solutions that benefit New York state, the Great Lakes Fruit Production Region, and the US at large.

Thank you for your time and participation and support! https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eqzMrFKtlcDjjgO

The survey is being administered out of Iowa State University and has been IRB approved.



CONTACT OUR HIGH VALUE CROPS DIVISION:
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PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

This week, I am in North Carolina at a collaborative meeting with pesticide application specialists from Washington and North Carolina State Universities. As usual, the LERGP is reaching out to expand our education on topics important to our growers in the Lake Erie Region, so I spent the day learning new techniques for calibrating pneumatic sprayers such as Cima brand and discussing the impacts of various canopy management and trellis systems and how they can impact the efficacy and best setting choices in the vineyard.

Thursday, we will host a grower-focused calibration workshop day similar to what I have hosted at the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center, but with more opportunities for troubleshooting “scenarios”. I will be bringing these techniques to meetings in Erie and Chautauqua Counties in the future. Friday will be an Extension workday with 10 Educators/Specialists in viticulture who will spend the day discussing ways to improve our recommendations and expand our collective research. I look forward to sharing the results of that meeting with our growers!

Thanks to Lexie McDaniel for organizing this event and Gwen Hoheisel for leading it and sharing her expertise!



Registration for the on-site calibration program is open for spring 2025. If you have a sprayer that requires manual calibration, I am available for **on-site** appointments in April and May to calibrate your equipment. This service is **FREE** for Pennsylvania growers and ALL LERGP members within the Lake Erie region, regardless of which state you are in.

Please contact Megan Luke or register through the LERGP website soon to secure your spot.

Register online [here](#)



Airblast sprayer calibration equipment

Finally, the EVEF Vineyard Sprayer Best Practices: Expert Forum Discussion will be held at noon on April 15th, 2025. You can pre-register to be part of this discussion [here](#).

All EVEF webinars are free, and I welcome any questions from our growers to be included in the conversation. If you have a question regarding sprayer technology or best practices, please submit it through the registration process, and I will be sure to include it in our webinar.

Contact information:

Mobile (*call or text*): (716) 397-9674 (*preferred*)

Office: (814) 825-0900

Email: MFL5873@psu.edu



The advertisement features three images of vineyard equipment: a yellow Cima sprayer, a red McCormick tractor, and a red Riniert tillage implement. Below the images is a red oval logo for "JAVA FARM SUPPLY". At the bottom, the address "8855 W Route 20 Westfield, NY 14787" is listed next to a truck icon, followed by the phone number "(716) 326-4666" and the website "JavaFarmSupply.com". The tagline "Meeting all of your Vineyard Equipment needs!" is at the very bottom.

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Updates and Information

Kimberly Knappenberger, Extension Support Specialist, LERGP



NEWA

As of Thursday morning both the Versailles and East Ripley weather stations are back online!!!! And there was great rejoicing!!! Both stations required a firmware update and new motherboards. Hopefully moving forward there will be fewer outages. I look forward to seeing how the year progresses.

With those stations back online we are almost at full capacity. The Ripley Route 20 station has been having some hiccups but hope to remedy that soon so we can get rolling as of April 1st with good weather data to back up the models.

As always, let me know if you see something that doesn't seem right.

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2025 LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting Schedule

May 7, 2025 10:00am	Militello Farm Supply 2929 Route 39 Forestville, NY 14062
May 14, 2025 10:00am	Knight Vineyards 18 Shaver St. Ripley, NY 14775
May 21, 2025 9:00am	LERGREC Field Day 662 N. Cemetery Rd, North East, PA 16428
May 28, 2025 10:00am	Paul Bencal 2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville, NY 14131
June 4, 2025 10:00am	Sprague Farms 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081
June 11, 2025 10:00am	AgriAmerica 2465 Route 20 Silver Creek, NY 14136
June 18, 2025 10:00am	Arrowhead Winery 12073 East Main St. North East, PA 16428
June 25, 2025 10:00am	Liberty Winery 2861 US Route 20 Sheridan, NY 14135
July 2, 2025 10:00am	Chris & Heather Kaczor 10468 Lake Shore Rd. Irving, NY 14081
July 9, 2025 10:00am	NO COFFEE POT MEETING
July 16, 2025 10:00am	Grower Demo Day at CLEREL 6592 West Main Rd. Portland, NY 14769
July 23, 2025 10:00am	Schulze Vineyards & Winery 2090 Coomer Rd. Burt, NY 14028
July 30, 2025 10:00am	NO COFFEE POT MEETING

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Links of Interest:

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

<https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension>

Efficient Vineyard:

<https://www.efficientvineyard.com/>

LERGP:

<https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/>

<https://lergp.com/>

NYSIPM:

<https://cals.cornell.edu/new-york-state-integrated-pest-management>

Veraison to Harvest:

<https://cals.cornell.edu/viticulture-enology/research-extension/veraison-harvest>

