



LERGP Crop Update

July 24, 2025

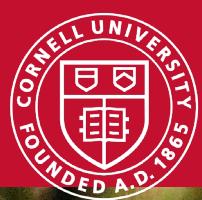
*Photo credit-
Kate Robinson*



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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Don't miss the Erie Horticulture Society Chicken BBQ on Wednesday July 30th from 4pm-7pm- [Please register ASAP](#).

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watch Podcasts](#)

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.

Thank you!

*A sincere thank you goes out to all of the hosts of our coffee pot meetings this season. It is due to those who open their farms and businesses to us to hold our weekly meetings. We are deeply grateful for your willingness to do so. We had a very successful season and look forward to doing it again next year. **If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee pot meeting in 2026, please let me know by e-mailing kjr45@cornell.edu or call me at 716-792-2800 ext 201.***

Militello Farm Supply

Knight Vineyards

LERGREC Field Day

Paul Bencal

Sprague Farms

AgriAmerica

Arrowhead Winery

Liberty Winery

Chris & Heather Kaczor

CLEREL

Schulze Vineyards & Winery

Business Management

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

Supplemental Disaster Relief Program to Provide Payments to Those Who Lost a Crop in 2024 or 2023

Grape Growers who suffered a crop loss in 2023 and/or 2024 may be eligible to receive funds through the new USDA Supplemental Disaster Relief Program. The SDRP, released earlier this month provides, “compensation to producers for necessary expenses related to crop, timber, and livestock losses” (USDA). Last year’s freeze event, which effected the eastern half of the grape belt, is a qualifying disaster and affected farmers can apply for assistance.

I highly suggest you talk to your local Farm Service Agency if you have any questions or concerns about the administration of this program. It is a busy time of year for them currently, so please call ahead before stopping by to make sure they are available to assist you.

The program will be administered in two stages:

- The first stage (now open) will use data already on file from FSA or RMA. This means if you received an insurance payment for losses in 2023 or 2024, you are eligible and likely have already been sent a letter with a pre-filled application. Once signed up you will receive a payment based on the program calculation.
- The second stage (not yet open) will cover crop losses that were not indemnified due to the producer not holding crop insurance and crop losses that were not severe enough to trigger payment from their insurance.

Insurance Coverage Requirement:

Producers who receive SDRP payments are required to purchase federal crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two crop years at the 60 percent coverage level or higher. (Iowa State) Please consider and compare the payment amount and the cost of the 60% coverage for the next two years. Another important insight is that this program will make a payment at 35% first, similar to the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops Program that paid in two parts. This is being done to ensure that payouts don’t go over the allotted funds. While a second payment is not guaranteed, it should factor into your decision making.

Next steps:

- If you have received a pre-filled application and everything is correct, you can sign it and return it to your local county FSA office.
- If you have received a pre-filled application and changes need to be made to the information, please contact your local county FSA office first before making any changes. You will likely need to schedule an appointment with them.
- If you didn’t receive an application but you believe you should have (like if you received a crop insurance payment in the last two years), contact your local FSA office to notify them.
- If you did not hold crop insurance in 2023 or 2024, or if you had a loss that didn’t trigger an insurance payment, please wait for Stage 2 to be released. I will provide more information when it is available in a future Crop Update.

Along with what's written above, if you have any other issues with applying, the application, or understanding this program please call your local FSA office:

Chautauqua County - Farm Service Agency

220 Fluvanna Ave., Suite 600 Jamestown, NY 14701

Phone: (716) 664-2351

Cattaraugus County - Ellicottville Service Center

8 Martha St Ellicottville, NY 14731

Phone: (716) 699-2375

Erie County, NY - Farm Service Agency

50 Commerce Way East Aurora, NY 14052

Phone: (716) 652-1400

Niagara County - Farm Service Agency

4487 Lake Ave Lockport, NY 14094-1139

Phone: (716) 433-6703

Erie County, PA - Waterford Service Center

12723 Route 19 S Waterford, PA 16441

Phone: (814) 796-6760 Ext 2

This article from Iowa State breaks down the program farther and provides an example of what the payments would be: [USDA Launches the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program](#). Check it out for more information about the program, but I will include their payment calculations and example below:

Payment Amounts

Stage 1 payments are calculated using the loss data on file with FSA or RMA. The Stage 1 payment calculation for a crop and unit depends on the type and level of Federal crop insurance or NAP coverage obtained by the producer. Each coverage level is assigned an SDRP factor, which is used in calculating the payment.

The payment is calculated by taking the expected value of the crop times the SDRP factor. From that amount, the value of production is subtracted, as is the crop insurance (or NAP) indemnity payment minus administrative fees and premiums. A 35 percent payment factor is then applied to all Stage 1 payments to avoid paying out more money than what has been allocated by Congress. USDA will issue Stage 1 payments as applications are processed and approved. If money remains after payments are made, the agency may make a second SDRP payment. For stage 1, the statute provides that the SDRP payment to indemnified producers cannot exceed 90 percent of the loss.

Example

The rules provide an example of how a crop insurance SDRP payment is calculated.

- A producer had a crop insurance policy with a coverage level of 65 percent
- The total administrative fee and premium was \$3,500.
- Based on the producer's approved yield, acres, and applicable price under their insurance policy, the expected value of their crop was \$500,000, and the liability was \$325,000 (65 percent of the expected value).
- The producer suffered a crop loss and their production was valued at \$250,000, resulting in a

gross indemnity of \$75,000.

- To calculate the producer's Stage 1 payment, RMA performs the same calculation that was used to calculate the indemnity based on their loss procedures but uses \$437,500 (the SDRP factor of 87.5 percent multiplied by the expected value) instead of the liability
- The value of production (\$250,000) is subtracted from \$437,500 equaling \$187,500.
- From that amount, RMA subtracts the net indemnity of \$71,500 (\$75,000 minus \$3,500), resulting in a calculated Stage 1 payment of \$116,000
- A 35 percent payment factor is then applied to yield a \$40,600 payment.

$\$500,000 \text{ (expected value)} \times 87.5\% \text{ (SDRP factor)} = \$437,500$

$\$437,500 - \$250,000 \text{ (value of production)} - \$71,500 \text{ (net indemnity)} = \$116,000 \text{ (SDRP payment prior to final payment factor and applicable reductions)}$

$\$116,000 \times .35 = \$40,600$

For consistency throughout Stage 1, USDA will use the same approach for calculating payments for NAP-covered losses as they use for insured losses.

Type of coverage	Coverage level	SDRP factor (percent)
Crop insurance	Catastrophic coverage	75.0
	More than catastrophic coverage but less than 55 percent	80.0
	At least 55 percent but less than 60 percent	82.5
	At least 60 percent but less than 65 percent	85.0
	At least 65 percent but less than 70 percent	87.5
	At least 70 percent but less than 75 percent	90.0
	At least 75 percent but less than 80 percent	92.5
NAP	At least 80 percent	95.0
	Catastrophic coverage	75.0
	50 percent	80.0
	55 percent	85.0
	60 percent	90.0
	65 percent	95.0

What I'm Reading:

- [The Unseen Workforce: How Immigration Enforcement Could Shake the U.S. Economy](#)
- Choicesmagazine.org

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Andy Campell

General Manager

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Mock Truck Inspection Information Day

Come join us on

Wednesday, August 20th

9:00am-Noon

CLEREL-6592 W. Main Rd. Portland NY 14769

This event will start in the CLEREL conference room with a presentation from Trooper Andrew Lawrence. It will outline what the inspections aim to achieve, what they are looking for during an inspection and how to prepare your drivers and fleet to pass the inspections.

We will have a grape hauling truck and a grain hauling truck on-site that Trooper Lawrence will conduct mock inspections on for all to see how an inspection unfolds.

This is a FREE event but we ask that you register so we know how many to expect.

REGISTER ONLINE HERE

or call Katie at
716-792-2800 ext 201



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PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

Time Sensitive- Please read!

The EPA is currently seeking nominations for the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee. I intend to put myself forward for nomination with the intention of being a voice for specialty crop production in the Northeastern United States. This position will allow me to speak to the needs of our industry, as well as receive the most timely updates on potential policy changes affecting grape production.

Per the EPA Bulletin: The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Pesticide Programs is inviting nominations from qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC). The PPDC is chartered to provide policy advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA on a wide variety of pesticide regulatory developments and reform initiatives, evolving public policy, and program implementation issues associated with evaluating and reducing risks from pesticide use. To maintain the representation outlined by the charter, nominees will be selected to represent: environmental/public interest and animal rights groups; farm worker organizations; pesticide industry and trade associations; pesticide user, grower, and commodity groups; federal/state/local and tribal governments; academia; and public health organizations. Vacancies are expected to be filled by December 2025. Sources, in addition to this Federal Register Notice, may be utilized in the solicitation of nominees.

Source docket on Regulations.gov: **EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-0651**

To these ends, I am soliciting letters of recommendation to include in my nomination. These letters can be brief and can be a simple description or explanation of why you think I would be a good candidate in terms of experience or expertise, reasons why representation is needed within our industry and region, and general support for my position and nomination to the board.

- Please send letters on business letterhead or with business letter formatting in PDF, Word, or other attached file format to: MFL5873@psu.edu
- Be sure to include the date, your business name, your name and position, address/email, and signature. **Letters are needed by August 1st!**

Insect and scouting update

As per Kim's updates this week, most areas are quickly approaching the 1620-degree day marker for grape berry moth- check out Kim Knappenberger's article for more information on NEWA models regarding this pest. This information is a reprint from last week, but it remains relevant.

Grape berry moth (GBM): The primary insect pest of concern at this time of year is of course grape berry moth (GBM) (Figure 1). At this time, damage is visible as small holes in berries with a purplish discoloration and sometimes a split in the skin with frass or webbing (Figure 2). In warm years and at high-risk sites, growers need to continue chemical control on a 10-to-14-day interval from mid-August to mid-September. This is due to the fact that while our degree-day model can predict an average hatch date for GBM larvae, this event is, in reality, spread out over several weeks for each flight. That being said- it is a good idea to choose materials that have some staying power on your vines to provide coverage beyond a singular event. Materials that are short acting such as zeta-cypermethrin (Mustang Maxx, etc.) are only efficacious for 1-2 days. If you are looking for a pyrethrin insecticide that has a longer coverage period, you might want a material like bifenthrin which lasts a week or more under optimum conditions. Reminder that grape berry moth has exhibited resistance to danitol in the Finger Lakes region! There are several other classes of insecticide that can be used, be mindful of your rotation and your pre-harvest intervals if you have any early ripening wine grapes in your acreage.

Remember when scouting that the goal is to get a handle on potential damage levels and whether you are exceeding economic thresholds. For Concord grapes, if the percent of clusters that show some GBM damage to berries is **greater than 6% at second flight and greater than 15% at third flight**, then a treatment is recommended.



Grape Berry Moth Larvae and Damage Photos courtesy of Penn State Extension, Megan Luke

Grape leaf hopper: Another pest that may become problematic in late July is the grape leaf hopper (Figure 3). If you see stippling (white dots on leaves caused by leafhopper feeding) throughout the vineyard block, scouting should be conducted to determine if an insecticide treatment is recommended (Figure 4). Sampling for leafhoppers is focused on the abundance or quantity of first-generation nymphs. Check four different areas in the vineyard (two exterior and two interior). At each area, look at five lower (basal) leaves (leaves #3-#7 when counting from the base of the shoot) per shoot on five different shoots at each location and check for leaf feeding. If no damage or minimal injury is observed, proceed to the next sampling site. If moderate to heavy leaf stippling is observed, then begin counting nymphs on the undersides of leaves. If a threshold of five nymphs/leaf is reached, then an insecticide application is recommended.

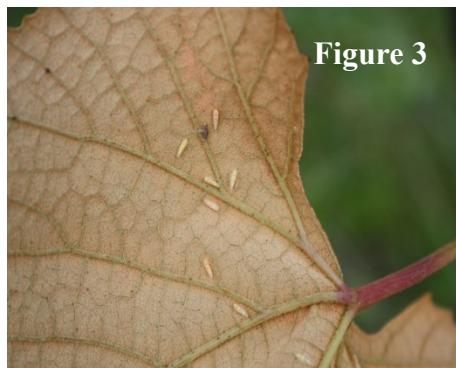


Figure 3



Figure 4

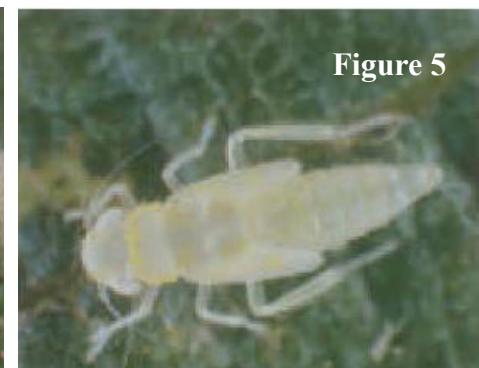


Figure 5

Grape leaf hopper adults, leaf damage, and nymphs Photos courtesy of Penn State Extension, Andy Muza

Japanese beetles: Finally, many folks have issues with Japanese beetles in the vineyard and overall landscape in the mid- to late-summer. While these pests can be quite destructive to the foliage of plants, they are unlikely to cause enough harm to vines to warrant treatment in most cases. However, if you are choosing an insecticide for GMB or leafhopper control, that material should knock down the number of Japanese beetles as well.

Be aware of your rotation of chemistries throughout the growing season. Use these links to check your materials before the application:

Mode of action (MOA)- This is the method that a specific product uses to kill a pest. Every pesticide on the market has a code for the mode of action. When you rotate your products, you should choose products with different modes of action. The standard recommendation is to rotate between three products with different modes of action. When a pest population becomes resistant to a specific product, it is likely to be resistant to **all** products with that mode of action.

Modes of action for fungicides can be found here: [FRAC](#)

Modes of action for insecticides can be found here: [IRAC](#)

Modes of action for herbicides can be found here: [HRAC](#)

If you suspect that a specific material is losing its effectiveness in your vineyard, contact us to assess your program. Spray tank pH, spray coverage, and tank mix contents can play a role in the effectiveness of a spray application. In the case of true resistance, it is important to document cases so that research can be conducted into how widespread an issue may be. Documenting resistant pest populations early is critical to retaining the effectiveness of our chemistries. Please help us guide the research accordingly!



DATE:

August 12, 2025

TIME:

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

**Quarry Hill Winery & Orchard
8403 Mason Rd #2
Berlin Heights, OH 44814**

REGISTRATION COST:

Early Registration: \$45 per person until July 1

Late Registration: \$60 per person July 2 until August 1



New Sprayer Technologies and Best Practices: Vineyards and Orchards

This workshop will feature presentations on best spraying practices using conventional sprayers and new sprayer technology, including spray drones and Intelligent sprayer units. The afternoon will provide field demonstrations showing adjustments to improve effectiveness of conventional sprayers as well as sprayer operation and calibration demonstration. This workshop is being developed by OSU, MSU, and PSU Extension Specialists and the USDA-ARS Application Technology Research Unit. Registration is required. Please see the agenda for program details. Lunch and workshop materials are included with registration.

REGISTER AT GO.OSU.EDU/SPRAY2025



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Erie Horticultural Society Chicken BBQ Meeting Agenda- 2025

Location: Gravel Pit Park, 10300 W Main Rd, North East, PA 16428

Date: Wednesday, July 30th 2025

Time: 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

A three-hour chicken BBQ and meeting with two core credits and one category credit in the afternoon, providing growers with updated information and research in juice and wine grape production, as well as best practices for pesticide application. Registration is free, and dinner will be provided.

- **4:00 PM Start:** Equipment show and vendor tables
- 4:30 PM (30 minutes) 1 core recertification credit
 - **Title:** "Worker Protection Standard- What does compliance look like?"
 - **Speaker:** Joni Davis
 - **Description:** Inform-Protect-Mitigate. The whole reason for the regulation is to make sure those who work for you know what they are being exposed to, how to protect themselves from that exposure, and what to do if they are exposed to pesticides while working on the farm. During this talk, you will learn what it takes to gain compliance and how to maintain it year after year.
- 5:00 PM (30 minutes) 1 category recertification credits
 - **Title:** "Update on vineyard weather stations and insect pest research"
 - **Speaker:** Kim Knappenberger and Flor Acevedo
 - **Description:** Discussion of the benefits of hosting weather stations within the vineyard, including degree day models and infection period estimation, and updates on management strategies for grape berry moth and spotted lanternfly.
- 5:30 PM (30 minutes) 1 core recertification credit
 - **Title:** "Pesticide best practices and legal changes to labels for the coming growing season"
 - **Speaker:** Megan Luke
 - **Description:** Brief update regarding label changes to pesticides commonly used in grapes (ziram, captan, mancozeb), and overview of upcoming changes, including use of the EPA's Mitigation Menu and the Bulletins Live! 2 website.
- 6:00 PM (Dinner)
- 7:00 PM End

*This is a FREE Event but you **MUST REGISTER !***

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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>



Spotted Lanternfly Pocket Guide:

<https://lergp.com/spotted-lanternfly>

