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University of Nebraska
Viticulture Program

Summer Edition

Nebraska VineLines

Volume IX, Issue 2
June/July

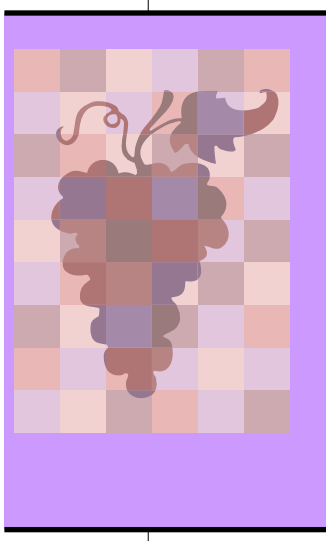
Editors: Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Horticulture & Viticulture
Donna Michel, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

WOW! WHAT A SPRING!

Following another great conference in early March, unseasonably warm weather in late March was followed by a record cold week in early April throughout the Midwest and extending into many southern states, wreaking havoc to many crops including unfortunately our favorites, grapes. Adding insult to injury, additional late freezes hit parts of the Nebraska industry in mid-May.

10th Annual Forum

The 10th Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show was another great success, with over 300 in attendance in spite of snowstorms in eastern Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa. Our Forums9 have averaged over 300 attendees for the last four years, indicating their obvious value to the grape and wine industry. **Bruce Bordelon**, Purdue University Viticulturist, headlined the viticulture part of the program, with Keith Powell, "the Business Revivalist" providing marketing and promotion inspiration to the wine part of our industry. It was fitting that Dr. Bordelon was a featured speaker, since he was the main presenter at the First Nebraska GrapeGrowers Forum in 1998; also it was fitting that some attendees had to brave snow and bad roads because 45 brave souls faced similar challenges to attend that first Forum in 1998.



The many other topics and growers and winemakers panels combined to make the 10th Forum what several participants described as "the best ever" and "these conferences keep getting better and better". A special feature that was extremely well received was music for dancing following the ever-popular banquet (also described as "our best ever"). Appreciation is extended to **The Label Gallery,** for underwriting the cost of the band, and to all of the speakers, Trade Show vendors and other participants that combined their efforts to indeed make the 10th Forum "the best ever".

April Freeze Causes Severe Damage to Crops: An Up-Date

First, the good news: Nebraska vineyards, when taken collectively, did not fare as badly as did their counterparts in several other states, especially Missouri and Arkansas where it was reported that growers in those states experienced a **95% crop loss.** Dr. Keith Striegler, University of Missouri viticulturist, reported that weather records in Missouri indicated the combination of warm temperatures in March followed by extreme cold April 3-9 was the worst in 118 years! Parts of Illinois and Iowa also experienced serious damage to buds, canes and trunks, with some reports of splitting of trunks and cordons.

What about Nebraska? The effects of the extremely unusual weather in March, April and May has led to slight to severe damage in Nebraska vineyards, depending upon location and cultivar. Eastern Nebraska vineyards experienced more damage from the April freeze than did western Nebraska vineyards because the vines were more advanced as a result of the warm March weather. Western Nebraska vines were less developed and most escaped bud damage because the vines were still more or less dormant. Where damage occurred, it was primarily to cultivars that had swollen bud, buds that had broken; shoot emergence and extension. Examples of vines with shoots that experienced "nature's freeze dryer" were deChaunac, Marechal Foch, Leon Millot, Delaware and Lacrosse, while Edelweiss had swollen buds and in many cases the primary buds were killed. Secondary buds on some of these cultivars have grown out and may provide a partial crop, again depending on cultivar and location. See our University of Nebraska website: **http://agronomy.unl.edu/**viticulture for more detailed and ongoing information. The full extent of the impact of these weather events on the Nebraska crop will be determined as the season un-

From Nebraska

Did you know? ***A NEW TASTING ROOM IN LINCOLN***

Another Tasting Room — "From Nebraska" at 8th & P Streets, Lincoln, NE.

We are the local showcase for the best products made in Nebraska, located in the middle of the heartland. We are proud of the wonderful products we carry that represent Nebraska's finest producers of food, wine and gifts. Nebraska's main industry is agriculture and we therefore carry a large variety of gourmet food products which we can customize for you in a variety of containers including Nebraska shaped baskets. They are great for holidays, birthdays, Fathers Day, Mothers Day, reunions, or any special occasion. Most of our food producers have gone through the University of Nebraska food processing laboratory, and are members of NFIA-Nebraska Food Industry Association and GROW Nebraska.

The Nebraska wine and grape growers association NWGGA has been very instrumental in promoting the wine industry in Nebraska. We currently carry wine from 8 of the wineries in Nebraska and offer on and off sale, including wine sampling. Why not add a bottle to your next gift basket?

***STORE HOURS:**
Monday Thru Saturday From 10:00 AM To 9:00 PM | Sunday From 12 Noon To 4 :00 PM
**Wine Tasting - During Any Open Hours*

A NEW TASTING ROOM IN RAVENNA

Grapes, berries, and brambles. Wildflowers and birding. One season and its accompanying harvest melds nearly seamlessly into the next at our picturesque vineyard nestled on a beautiful hillside. Our new dining room and tasting room accommodate wine tasting, fresh fruit pies and cobblers. Cedar Hills Vineyard and Gardens' guests marvel at the array of food growing here.Relax while enjoying a glass of Nebraska's finest wines and taking in the beautiful view of the South Loup river valley.Nebraska made gifts are available.

Hours: Friday & Saturday: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or by reservation for group luncheons or evening meals or tours. Five miles east of Ravenna on highway #2 to Range Rd, then turn north 2 1/2 miles to 375th Rd, turn west 1/2 mile. Just 45 minutes from Kearney or Grand Island, Nebraska, 2 hours from Lincoln.

Cedar Hills Vineyard
Joyce and Paul Sears
48970 375 th Road
Ravenna, NE 68869

email: info@cedarhillsvineyard.com
Phone: 308-452-3181

www.cedarhillsvineyard.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Field Day June 23, 2007

Name_____

Company/Vineyard/Winery_____

Address_____City_____State_____Zip_____

E-mail_____Telephone:_____

Cost: $15.00_____includes lunch

Make your check payable to: University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

And send to: 377 Plant Science Hall

Lincoln, NE 68583-0724

Questions: Donna Michel—dmichel@unl.edu, 402-472-8747 or pread@unl.edu, 402-472-5136

SUMMER FIELD DAY OPPORTUNITIES

A University of Nebraska Viticulture Program "rolling field day" will take place on Saturday, June 23, beginning with registration at 9:00 am at Geo Spencer Vineyards in Gibbon. The program will begin at 9:30 in the vineyards where Jim Hruskoci will discuss the cluster removal project and Paul Read and Stephen Gamet will discuss vineyard management tasks, while Geo. Spencer personnel will describe their management techniques and successes with new cultivars such as Brianna and Traminette. Their 2006 planting of Marquette will also be discussed. We will then travel to St. Paul for lunch and a visit to Miretta Vineyards, the second site for the cluster removal project. Mick McDowell, co-owner of Miretta vineyards (and NWGGA President—elect) will comment on his trellis systems and challenges he has dealt with in developing his vineyard. The third and final stop will be the Cedar Hills Vineyard and Gardens (Joyce and Paul Sears) near Ravenna, the third location of the cluster removal project. Following discussions in the vineyard, participants are invited to visit the newly opened tasting and sales room that Joyce and Paul have developed where Nebraska wines and Joyce's specialty creations are on display.

We appreciate the generosity of Barb Yendra and Lee Smith (Geo. Spencer Vineyards), Mick and Loretta McDowell (Miretta Vineyards) and Joyce and Paul Sears, Cedar Hills Vineyard in making their vineyards and facilities available for what promises to be a highly informative and timely "rolling field day". Pre-registration is encouraged (see form above).

NWGGA Grant-Funded Field Days.

The Nebraska Winery and GrapeGrowers Association has obtained a grant to conduct educational programs and has set four summer field day dates:

July 27—James Arthur Vineyards, Raymond, NE
July 28—Cuthills Vineyards, Pierce, NE
August 3—Geo. Spencer Vineyards—Gibbon, NE
August 4—South Fork Vineyards, Ogallala, NE

Guest presenters will be Dr. Carl Rosen, University of Minnesota soils specialist (July 27 and 28), and Dr.Paul Domoto, Iowa State University, Extension Horticulturist, with the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program's Paul Read and Stephen Gamet also providing information on harvest parameters, record keeping, crop estimation and related topics. More information will be available soon (contact: Ann Rief, NWGGA Growers Council Chair, 308-380-0610).

VITICULTURE PROGRAM

377 Plant Science Hall
Department of Agronomy
& Horticulture

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, color, religion and marital status, veterans status, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation

From the Calendar:

June 23, 2007—Summer Field Day,
St. Paul area vineyards.

NWGGA Grant-Funded Field Days
July 27—James Arthur Vineyards, Raymond, NE
July 28—Cuthills Vineyards, Pierce, NE
August 3—Geo. Spencer Vineyards—Gibbon, NE
August 4—South Fork Vineyards, Ogallala, NE

November 3, 2007—
Fall GrapeGrowers Workshop,
University of Nebraska,
Lincoln, NE

Future Nebraska Winery & GrapeGrowers Forums

2008—February 29-March 1—Holiday Inn, Kearney

2009—March 6 & 7, Holiday Inn, Kearney

2010—March 5 & 6, Holiday Inn, Kearney