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Nebraska Vine Lines

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Editors: Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Horticulture & Viticulture

Donna Michel, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program



July/August, 2004 Vol. VII, No. 4

Field Days Well Attended, Successful and Informative

Rolling Field Day – June 5, 2004

A "Rolling" Field Day held on June 5th in Washington and Burt Counties was a highly successful effort aimed at conducting local, regional educational events. More than 50 attendees visited **Birdsong Vineyards (Tim and Deeann Hrdlicka)**, the **Rich and Marlene Mullins** vineyard near Arlington, **Al and Connie Faltys'** vineyard and fruit plantings, **Big Cottonwood Vineyards (Rick and Deb Barnett)** and finished with a most pleasant stop at **Silvercreek Vineyards (Phil and June Simpson)** with a tasting of their high-quality wines. **Silvercreek Vineyards** plans to open their winery in 2005 and based on the comments of those sampling the wines, has potential to join the growing list of Nebraska's fine wineries. **Birdsong Vineyards'** recovery from bad spring freezes and extreme hail damage was discussed by **Deeann and Tim**, attendees learned about innovative planting techniques at the **Mullins'** vineyard and also viewed their new mechanical harvester. Participants were impressed by the **Faltys'** diverse and well-kept fruit plantings and enjoyed discussions with the **Barnetts** about their vineyards and new winery building. One attendee was heard to say, "I learned so much—each stop had something special for me!"

Multi-State Field Day -- June 19, 2004

A highly educational field day was held on June 19th at the **Kimmel Education and Research Center** near Nebraska City. A field tour included the Kimmel Commercial vineyard where **Vaughn Hammond** discussed their ground cover trials, followed by **Steve Gamet** discussing trellising systems and **Paul Read**

presenting results and observations from the **University of Nebraska Viticulture Program's** cultivar trials. While half of the attendees participated in the field tour, the other half was treated to presentations on drip irrigation (**Mike Bousquet, Reams Sprinkler & Supply Co.**), vineyard tools and pruning (**Mary Jo Thaden, MDT Associates**) and vineyard chemicals and applications (**Rick Vrbas, CEREXAGRI** and **Wayne Peterson, Midwest Grower Supply**). During the lunch hour, State Reports were presented. **Mike White, ISU Viticulturist** and **Eli Bergmeier, Golden Hills RC& D**, gave an up-date on **Iowa's** developing grape and wine industry, followed by a presentation on the Kansas industry by **Sorkel Kadir, KSU fruit specialist**. **Sorkel** also discussed new research that she has initiated to help **Kansas** growers. **Andy Allen** is a new **viticulturist** with **Southwest Missouri State University** and he provided information on the **Missouri** industry. **Paul Read** concluded the lunch-time reports by presenting an up-date on **Nebraska's** rapidly emerging grape and wine industry. Following these reports, the participants that went on the tour in the morning attended the irrigation, tools and chemical sessions and the second group went on the tour to learn about ground covers, trellising and cultivars. Attendees were well-pleased with the Field Day, with one remarking, "This was the best event of its kind that I ever attended!" Attendees ended their day with a visit to Nebraska's first Co-op winery, **Arbor Trails Winery**, for a tasting of their wine selection.

Appreciation is expressed to Extension Educators, **Jim Peterson (Washington County)** and **John Wilson (Burt County)** for their assistance in advertising and promoting the Rolling Field Day and to **Carol Ringenberg** for her outstanding assistance with logistics and coordination for the Multi-state Field Day.

Soaring Wings Vineyard is now Open!

Soaring Wings opened their new winery and tasting room quietly on the 19th of June. It has been a long and hard road to get to where we are now. We now look forward to the retail side of the winemaking business!

Award Winning Wines and a “Million Dollar View”

Although the 2003 season was Soaring Wings first production year we have already garnered several medals in International Wine Competitions. The production of high quality wines is our first priority. Our Winter White recently won a Silver Medal in the International

East Coast Wine competition. This wine has medaled in every competition it has been entered in and has improved with age. Our wines can be sampled in our winery’s comfortable tasting room. Or buy a bottle and some bread and cheese to enjoy on our large front porch. There you can enjoy what has been termed by many as our “Million Dollar View” of the Platte River valley from our high hill. We sit on 30 acres of land just south of Omaha on a high hill overlooking the tranquil Platte River valley. We are one mile south of Springfield on 138th St. Follow the signs from 138th and Pflug Rd. On many a day you can sit back and enjoy the soaring hawks that frequently take advantage of our hill, particularly when the wind is from the south.

Hours

Hours are Thu-Sat 12-6 and Sun 12-5.
February and March by appointment only.

We will be having a Grand Opening celebration on July 10th. Please stop on by!

New Releases July 10th

We will have four new wines to pick from; our dry white 2003 LaCrosse, our Sweet Apple wine, and our barrel aged dry reds, 2003 St. Croix and 2003 Special Reserve St. Croix. The Special Reserve is a very mellow St. Croix. Try it, you might love it!

Cheers,
Jim and Sharon
Soaring Wings Vineyard, LLC
17111 So. 138th St.
Springfield, NE 68059
Tel: (402)253-2479

Or via e-mail Jim@soaringwingswine.com

A HARVEST FIELD DAY

August 7, 2004

Nemaha, NE

Want to learn how to recognize veraison, calculate probable yield, measure fruit acidity and sugar levels prior to harvest, observe over 60 grape cultivars and breeding lines, see commercial and research vineyards, learn about how grapes are processed, what the winemaker is looking for, and much, much more? Then A Harvest Field Day is for you! It will be held at the Bob Curttright vineyard south of Nemaha, Nebraska, on Saturday, August 7, 2004.

**University of Nebraska Lincoln
Viticulture Program
Presents**



**A
Harvest
Field Day
August 7, 2004
9:00 a.m.
Bob Curttright
Vineyard
Nemaha, NE**

**University of Nebraska Lincoln
Viticulture Program
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension Division**

Registration Form

Name _____ \$20.00 _____
Vineyard or Company _____ (includes lunch)
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: _____
E-Mail _____

Additional People Registering: \$20.00 _____

Name: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: University of Nebraska
Viticulture Program
377 Plant Science Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724 Fax: 402/472-8650

Questions? Donna Michel – 402/472-8747 or dmichel@unl.edu or pread@unl.edu

\$25.00 the day of the Field Day – (lunch included)

THE PROGRAM

A Harvest Field Day

Features of this field day will include comments and advice from University experts and commercial grape growers. See research/demonstration plantings of grapes and other potential value-added fruit crops. **Registration** begins at **9:00 a.m.**, with **tours beginning at 9:30 a.m.** **Lunch at 12:00 noon.** **1:30p.m. travel to Whiskey Run Creek Winery, 720 Main St., Brownville, NE.**

What you will see:

- Different grape cultivars, including experimental lines from NY, MN and WI breeders
- An Operating Commercial Vineyard with unique trellising
- Different line posts and end-post assemblies.
- Two research vineyards
- Tools for harvest
- Weather station powered by solar energy
- Electric deer fencing powered by solar energy
- Conventional (European) and Asian pears, plums, blackberries and cherries on display
- Bird netting
- A working winery laboratory*

* After lunch, a tour of Whiskey Run Creek Vineyards Winery will take place. Use of winery lab equipment will be explained and demonstrated.

What you will learn:

- How to estimate potential yield
- How to use a refractometer
- Importance of pH, °Brix and TA (titratable acidity)
- Ideal °Brix for harvest
- pH vs °Brix
- Bird netting
- Ideal harvesting weather conditions
- Different cultivars and their ideal range in °Brix for harvest
- How to recognize veraison

Come and learn as Nebraska's Grape and Wine industry continues to grow!

Directions to the University of Nebraska Research Vineyards and the Bob Curttright Commercial Vineyard, Nemaha, NE

From Nemaha, NE

Go 3.5 miles past the Nemaha One Stop (heading south) to milepost 10 and take a left (heading east). Go 2.6 miles and take a left (heading north) just past the bridge. Go .2 miles and take a right (heading east) up the hill. The Vineyard is at the top of the hill.

New Corporate Sponsor Program

**The University of Nebraska
Viticulture Program welcomes its new
Corporate Sponsors:**

Reams Sprinkler Supply Co.
Mike and Ron Bousquet
6001 S. 57th St
Lincoln, NE 68516
(402) 423-0120

Midwest Vineyard Supply Inc.
Steve Payton or Mike Switzer
2300 South Twin Bridge Rd.
Decatur, IL 62521
(217) 864-9896

**We appreciate these Corporate
Sponsors' outstanding support of the
University of Nebraska Viticulture
Program.**

The University of Nebraska Viticulture Program Welcomes Corporate Sponsors

Visit our WEB site: **MidwestVineyardSupply.com**



**Midwest
Vineyard
Supply, Inc.** 2300 S. Twin Bridge Road
Decatur, Illinois 62521
Phone: 217-864-9896
FAX: 217-422-7793

**SERVING ALL YOUR VINEYARD AND ORCHARD
SUPPLY NEEDS!**

EMAIL: **Sales@Midwestvineyardsupply.com**

NWGGA – The Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association welcomes new members. There are four membership categories: Student - \$15.00/year; Individual - \$45.00/year; Joint - \$65/year; and Corporate - \$125/year. To join the NWGGA send your check to Deb Barnett, NWGGA Treasurer, Big Cottonwood Winery, 2865 Co. Rd. I, Tekamah, NE., 68061. For more information about the NWGGA, see their website www.nwgga.org. or contact any of the NWGGA officers.

REAMS SPRINKLER SUPPLY

Irrigation Experts
For Over
30 Years

We have been working in the irrigation field for over 30 years. Our background includes low-volume irrigation (drip), residential/commercial, sports-fields/golf courses. We have fully stocked locations in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, and Sioux City. Our CAD design staff includes an *Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Designer (C.I.D.)* to provide professional design. We have the staff and the products to allow us the opportunity to **EARN your business.**

Let us Use Our Experience to Assist You in Your Needs

OMAHA 3625 S. 149th Street Omaha, NE 68144 877-838-1600 402-896-1600	LINCOLN 6001 S. 57th Street Lincoln, NE 68516 800-798-2473 402-423-0120	GRAND ISLAND 453 Industrial Lane Grand Island, NE 68803 888-581-6677 308-381-6000	SIOUX CITY 1010 Gurlon Drive Sioux City, IA 51101 800-373-2009 712-258-8225
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www.reams.net

Saturday, July 17 and Sunday July 18, 2004, Mac's Creek Vineyards & Winery and the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension will present a field workshop on "**Canopy Management**". Tom Plocher will be presenting information on Canopy Management. For more information contact Barry McFarland at Mac's Creek Vineyards & Winery (308)324-0440.

Saturday, 7-17-04 Session 1 (9-1 pm), Session 2 (12-4 pm), Sunday, 7-18-04, Session 3 (9-1 PM)

Only 20 Participants per session.

Cost: \$20.

Arbor Trails Winery Opens their doors

Nebraska's First Cooperative Winery
Arbor Trails Winery
6450 J Road
Nebraska City, NE

402/873-8888

During the Grand Opening Ceremony on June 18th, 2004, the USDA presented Nebraska's first cooperative winery a grant received through the USDA,. The Grand Opening Celebration began June 19th and continued through the 20th. Everyone attending enjoyed a wine tasting, live music and apple cider for the kids.

The Winery released their commemorative bottle of apple wine crafted from apples of Nebraska City's Kimmel Orchard.

The Grand Opening was attended by over 200 people. Some of the wines served were Maple Grove Blush, Edelweiss, Williams Red..

Hours: Sunday through Thursday
Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday
Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Stop by and visit our Winery

9th Annual Wine & Wings Blues Festival

August 21 & 22, 2004

Cuthills Vineyard, Pierce, NE

Bring a blanket, some chairs and make a weekend of it!! Come early to hear all the bands!

Adults 21+ \$15/day or \$25/weekend

Minors 13 - 20 \$10/day or \$15/weekend

(non-transferable) 12 and under free

Ticket includes: CV wine glass, samples of wine (if your are 21+), Blues bands, winery tours, cooking demos, trolley rides through the vineyards, motor coach transportation to and from Pierce, free Festival parking, & Midwest Winds Kite Flying demos.





Viticulture Program
377 Plant Science Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724

The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. 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.

July 17th and 18th, 2004. Canopy Management workshop with Tom Plocher. At Mac's Creek Vineyards & Winery, Lexington, NE. (308) 324-0440 for more information.

August 7, 2004 – "A Harvest Field Day", Bob Curttright Vineyards, Nemaha, NE and Whiskey Run Creek Winery, Brownsville, NE. Contact Paul Read, pread@unl.edu or Donna Michel dmichel@unl.edu or (402) 472-8747.

November 5, 2004 – "Vines, Wines and You", Workshop. East Campus Union; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Open to the first 50 people to register. \$25.00 pre-registration required. More information to follow in upcoming issues of VineLines. Contact Paul Read, pread@unl.edu, or Donna Michel, dmichel@unl.edu

November 6, 2004 – Fall GrapeGrowers Workshop. East Campus Union. "Instrumentation for Vineyards and Wineries. Contact Donna Michel, dmichel@unl.edu or 402/472-8747 for more information.

Planning Ahead - Future Forums

2005 - March 4 and 5 - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

2006 - March 3 and 4 - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

2007 - March 2 and 3 - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

**August 7, 2004 HARVEST FIELD DAY REGISTRATION
MATERIALS ENCLOSED!**