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Nebraska VineLines

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AUG/SEPT 2009
Volume: XII — Issue: 4

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

**Editors: Dr. Paul Read, Professor of Horticulture & Viticulture and
Stephen J. Gamet, Department of Agronomy & Horticulture**

Multi-State Field Day — Big Success!


Zippidy-do-dah, zippidy-eh! What a beautiful, glorious day to hold our 6th Annual Multi-State Field Day on July 13! We were made to feel right at home by Vaughn Hammond, Extension Educator at the Kimmel Education and Research Center in Nebraska City, who gave us a huge welcome, introduction to the Center, and an overview of the picturesque Kimmel Orchard and its operation. Paul Read, University of Nebraska Viticulture Program director outlined the agenda for the day and presented highlights of the program.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Domoto, Fruit Specialist from Iowa State University, discussed sprayer calibration, pesticide application techniques and a host of other helpful and useful insights. This excellent presentation stimulated numerous questions from the audience accentuating the importance of these topics and indicating that attendees valued this type of information.

A Panel discussion on Bird Management moderated by Vaughn Hammond, was insightful and included expert advice, information and know-hows, and how-tos by vendors and local growers. A lively and spirited discussion carried over into the lunch hour as growers and vendors shared their experiences on this critically important topic. We also received an in-depth “State of the States” by participating state representatives. These included presentations by UNVP staff, Andy Allen, Extension Viticulturist for the University of Missouri, Paul Domoto and Mike White, Iowa State Extension Viticulture Specialists.

Following lunch and vendor visits, Paul Read introduced the cultivar evaluation project that is included in the UNVP Research Vineyard located on the Kimmel Orchard property. A further highlight was the demonstration of the “Netter-Getter”

system by the manufacturers – thanks, guys, for adding this treat to the outstanding Multi-State Field Day program.

All topics were well received and this field day was called an incredible success which concluded with visits to local wineries and vineyards. Comments included “you’ve got to hold more of these!” We sincerely want to thank everyone for their participation and the good time we shared. 

Western Nebraska Viticulture Field Day

Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us for our Western Nebraska Field Day event at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, NE, on Monday, August 17th. The research vineyard is managed and handled by Jim Schild, Scottsbluff County Extension Educator.

We plan to get started at the research vineyard at 4:00PM and conclude at about 7:00PM.

Important topics that will be covered at this event include:

- Pest problems;
- Grape vine borers;
- Grape flea beetles;
- Pre-harvest considerations and vine management.

We’ll also be talking about a host of other important things to do in your vineyard after harvest.

All participants will be invited to visit the Prairie Vines Vineyard and Winery in Mitchell, Nebraska following the conclusion of this timely field day program.



Extension is a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.


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Nebraska Industry Loses a Good Friend



Jim Emal was a key member of the Czechland Vineyards group that produces quality grapes for local wineries. The Czechland Vineyards also hosted an in-depth 'Frontenac' trellis study conducted by the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program. Jim was instrumental in initiating and helping to design this project which has already borne fruit, including forming the basis

for a recently completed M.S. degree project. Following are more details about Jim Emal and his enormous impact on the University of Nebraska and a wide-ranging group of people.

Professor Emeritus James Gerard Emal passed away in Wilber July 9, 2009. Born to Marvin C. and Glendola L. (Deeds) Emal in Minden, NE. Jim graduated from Grand Island High School in 1966 and obtained an undergraduate and masters degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Emal began his career with the Saline County Extension Agency, chairing the office through the 1970's and overseeing the purchase of their first computer. Named as one of the first microcomputer specialists at UNL, Emal spent the 1980's computerizing the Cooperative Extension Service at the University and traveling around the state educating farmers, ranchers, and their spouses how to use computers in their businesses. He worked with the University's Central Administration in the 1990's, and helped lead Technologies Across Nebraska, a Cooperative Extension coalition aimed at providing communities and small businesses with access, education and support in making decisions about their future in information technology. Also during the 1990's, he participated in an NU-IBM partnership to share the University's connectivity program across the globe, traveling to and teaching in countries like Belgium, France, South Africa and Australia. In 1994, his team at UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources arranged to host the first United Nations UNESCO global website at UNL, and it remained there for 6 years. Emal served as Director of Strategic Technologies for the Computing Services Network at UNL. He retired in 2007 after more than 35 years with the University. During his career, Emal received the Chancellor's Distinguished Educational Service Award, the National Arthur D. Little Award for Technological Excellence in Economic Development, and the Chester I. Walter Award for Excellence in Extension. He was a member of the Nebraska Grape Growers Association, the Wilber Lions Club, and the United Methodist Church in Wilber, NE. Our condolences are with his family and the Czechland Vineyards family. You will be greatly missed, Jim! 

Post-Harvest Vineyard Management is Important!

Soon the harvest will be complete and the winemaking process well underway to production of more award-winning Nebraska wines from an abundant 2009 vintage. So this means we can walk away from the vineyard and sit back and sip some of those wines, right? WRONG!

Post-harvest care of the vineyards is critically important, especially if any disease problems have been encountered during the 2009 growing season. I have noted severe problems with Black Rot, and to a lesser extent Downy Mildew and Powdery Mildew, in several Nebraska vineyards this year. This means that if any such problems occurred in your vineyard, you will find it necessary to apply appropriate measures to ensure that your vines will be productive in 2010.

- Vineyard hygiene/clean-up will be necessary. Do not leave diseased clusters hanging on the vines or to accumulate under the vines. They can serve as inoculum sites for future disease problems.
- Be sure to clean up and destroy all prunings that might also serve as inoculum for future disease outbreaks.
- Use appropriate fungicide sprays to combat serious infections. If the diseased leaves begin to dry up and fall on the ground, don't think that this is a natural phenomenon if you haven't experienced freezing temperatures. Control of foliar diseases prior to going into the fall season can help with cane hardening and subsequent winter hardiness.
- In dry soils it may be necessary to irrigate (e.g., western Nebraska vineyards, vineyards with well-drained, sandy soils), but if the soil has adequate moisture don't do anything to encourage soft new growth which will be vulnerable to early fall freeze damage and possibly winter damage.
- Fertilizer applications should have ceased well before harvest, although if tissue analyses have indicated micronutrient deficiencies, sprays of these elements applied to healthy vines may be beneficial. Nitrogen applied late in the season can cause soft new growth that is easily injured by cold (see note above).
- For new plantings that have been protected with grow-tubes (vine shelters, Bluetubes, etc.), it is imperative that these be removed right away, if they have not already been removed.
- If you have planted vines that are borderline for your area or slow to establish, such as viniferas, 'Traminette', 'Norton', 'Seyval Blanc', 'Chambourcin' for example, you may wish to plan to mound soil up around the base of the vines for winter protection.

Turn to **Post-Harvest**, page 3

Post-Harvest, from page 2

This should be done after the leaves have fallen and a hard freeze has occurred, usually late October to mid-November. Mound the soil up to a depth of 15 to 18 inches and be sure to cover the graft union for grafted vines. Our research with 'Gewurztraminer' has demonstrated that this practice is effective, although it is labor-intensive and questionable with regard to sustainability.

Most of the foregoing comments are aimed at achieving optimum conditions for maximum hardening to help your vines go into winter in the healthiest possible condition. Well-hardened canes will have turned from green to brown and have become well-suberized; they actually will have produced the beginnings of a bark layer.

Good luck with your fall vineyard management practices (and enjoy those great Nebraska wines!). ✂

Did you know?

Wine is made in the vineyard!

Wine is made in the vineyard! This oft-repeated comment was underscored by speakers at the Aroma Symposium held as part of the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium held earlier this year in Sacramento.

- Sunlight striking the grape clusters can have a profound influence on aroma compounds in wines made from sun-exposed grapes!
- Vine balance is considered more important to wine flavor and aromas than crop load or yield.
- Strong sunlight can reduce the strong bell pepper (methoxypyrazines) and other green aromas.
- Yeast strains can also influence wine aromas and flavors. ✂

Wine Making School – October 23 & 24!

Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development is announcing their 7th Small Scale Commercial Wine Making Class which will be held October 23 and 24th. For more information, email Tammy Tims, Five Rivers RC&D Coordinator, at tammy.timms@ne.usda.gov or visit their website at www.nercd.com. ✂

Plan Ahead - October 31 Workshop

The October 31 workshop at the Holiday Inn in Lincoln promises to have something for all vineyard managers/grape growers. We will be featuring outstanding speakers that will focus on the primary topic for the day, Vineyard Floor Management. Weed control and management, cover crops and cover crop management and organic approaches and alternatives to herbicides will be among the topics of the day. We are also working on adding an additional speaker who will share novel approaches to vineyard floor management - we will have more on this later - watch our website and the next issue of the Nebraska VineLines.

Also come early for the Wine Evaluation intensive short course that will be held on Friday evening, October 30. Participants will learn the fundamentals of wine evaluation, including how to characterize the all-important aromas that help distinguish good wines from great wines and those that identify flawed wines. More details will be forthcoming in the next Nebraska VineLines and on the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program website at

<http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture>

Free Sustainable Winegrowing Guide

Published by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, "Reducing Risks through Sustainable Winegrowing: A Growers' Guide", is available online at:

www.sustainablewinegrowing.org/agrowersguide.php

The focus of this guide is on the use of sustainable practices to help reduce risk and help with long-term viability of grapegrowing enterprises. Although Nebraska vineyards are not the same as those in California, many of the principles should be the same. ✂

Food Entrepreneur Seminar in Scottsbluff!

The UNL Food Processing Center is offering a one-day seminar for individuals interested in exploring the idea of starting a value-added food business. The "From Recipe to Reality" seminar will be held in Scottsbluff on October 24. Pre-registration is required. Please encourage interested individuals to contact Jill Gifford at 402-472-2819 or jgifford1@unl.edu for an information packet. ✂

For Sale: unique country home on 11 acres just 10 minutes outside of Lincoln. Natural amenities galore including 1-acre vineyard with room for expansion. To view, contact 402-782-2117 or go to <http://nebraskahousing.wordpress.com/>

Nebraska VineLines Calendar of Events

- August 17, 2009
Western Nebraska Vineyard Field Day
Scottsbluff, Nebraska.
- October 23 & 24, 2009
Wine Making School
Nebraska City, Nebraska.
- October 30, 2009
Understanding and appreciating Fine Wines;
an applied wine evaluation experience
Downtown Holiday Inn, Lincoln.
- October 31, 2009
'Trick or Treat: Fall Workshop'
Featuring Tricks of the trade and numerous Treats!
Downtown Lincoln Holiday Inn.

Future Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Forums

- 2010 – March 4 – 6, Holiday Inn, Kearney
- 2011 – March 3 – 5, Holiday Inn, Kearney
- 2012 – March 1 – 3, Holiday Inn, Kearney

***Please be sure to visit us on the Web for important registration information and other updates at:**
<http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture>.

