



Nebraska VineLines

UNIVERSITY OF
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University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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

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HOORAY FOR FIELD DAY!

JOIN US ON JULY 19TH!

Yes, we can now have an in-person Field Day and that alone is a reason for cheering. After all, evaluating fruit set, cluster condition, foliage health and vine balance is a lot better done up close and personal, instead of virtually, remotely, via Zoom, or whatever distance program that may be used. So we will celebrate by presenting our first University of Nebraska Viticulture Program (UNVP) sponsored field day in over two years! Following are some of the topics that will be featured as we meet at Homestead Prairie Vineyards near Crete, Nebraska.

- Transitioning trellis systems to High Wire systems. Why? Less labor and easier to employ mechanical harvesting. We'll see how our hosts, the Prokop family have approached these changes.
- UNVP Crop Reduction Study. Instituted during the pandemic on two other commercial vineyards, we have used the Frontenac Gris vines in this vineyard, with treatments that included no reduction (Control), 25% reduction and 50% reduction. This research is addressing the question of whether "conventional wisdom" that smaller crops translate into better wine quality applies to our hybrid grape cultivars grown in Nebraska.
- Crop Estimation. Wineries want to know how much crop their suppliers are able to provide and grape growers

want to know if projections of yield are accurate. Such estimations help wineries prepare for the harvest season, how many tanks are needed, how many staff are going to be needed, and many other logistical questions can be helped by having an accurate estimation of potential crop yield.

- Mid-summer vineyard management practices. Tucking for VSP, combing for High Wire Cordon, hedging and fruit zone leaf removal are some of the vegetation management issues that will be discussed.
- Timing of leaf removal (if necessary) and cluster thinning timing will be discussed, including the rationale for either practice and whether it is desirable for all cultivars.
- Tissue testing. When is it best done? How should the samples be taken?
- And much more! Bring any questions that you may have including specimens of insect damage, diseased leaf samples, or other issues that you would like addressed.

WHERE will the field day be held? At the commercial vineyard owned by the Prokop family near Crete, Homestead Prairie Vineyards. Directions to Homestead Prairie Vineyards: if coming from the north, go south of Crete on Highway 103, turn west (right) on K Road (two miles south of the Smithfield Plant). The vineyard is on the north side of the

road 3 miles west of Highway 103. If coming from the south on Highway 103, Road K is 4 miles north of Wilber.

WHEN? Monday, July 19, 2021 with registration and chatting with other attendees at 9:00 a.m. The program will begin at 9:30. There will be opportunity over the lunch break to interact with our hosts and other attendees to share experiences and insights that go into making this Nebraska grape and wine industry so great.

COST? Advance registration (on or before July 16) will be \$20.00 for the first attendee from a family or enterprise and \$10.00 for each additional participant. On-site cost will be \$25.00 for those not pre-registered. Lunch and hand-outs are included in the registration fee. Attendees can pay at the vineyard, but we request that you pre-register so that we can plan for lunches. Register by email at pread@unl.edu or sgamet@unl.edu or by calling 402-416-9763.

OTHER NOTES OF INTEREST

How many grapes are in a bottle of wine? Chris Gerling of Cornell University recently published an article addressing that question. He says it depends on a lot of things, including berry size (varies from cultivar to cultivar, also varies with position in the cluster), “terroir” (where is it grown?), season/vintage, juice viscosity (varies from one cultivar to another), winemaker’s style and preferences and many other factors that Chris discusses in his article. He gives examples of berry size varying among cultivars (Frontenac 1.14 grams vs. Cayuga White at 3.19 grams per berry, for example) and in another example, he compares Cabernet Franc berry weights over a nine-year period that varied from 1.32 grams to 1.76, with an average of 1.54. He concludes that there is no perfect

answer, but a ballpark guesstimate is about 600 to 800 berries per bottle – quite a range!

Scott Laboratories has just released their “Scott Laboratories 2021 Winemaking Handbook”. At 121 pages, it is chock full of tables, charts and descriptions that are covered in such sections as Yeasts, Yeast Nutrients, Malolactic Fermentation, Oak and Tannins, Fining and Stabilizing, Microbial Control and much more.

New Factsheet on Itasca. The University of Minnesota has recently released a new Factsheet on their most recent introduction, Itasca. Like most of the University of Minnesota’s introductions, Itasca is named after a place in the state, in this case named after Lake Itasca, the source lake for the beginnings of the Mississippi River located in northwestern Minnesota. The Factsheet includes assessments of Fruit Characteristics, Hardiness, Vigor, Bud Break and Harvest Timing, Harvest Parameters, suggested Training Systems, Pruning and Canopy Management and Pest Susceptibility.

Alternative Shoot Tip Management. In another recent article from Cornell University, Anne Logan and colleagues explore the use of shoot wrapping as an alternative to summer shoot hedging in vertical shoot positioned (VSP) vineyards. They also evaluated shoot tucking (pointing shoot tips downward) as an alternative to summer hedging; both approaches show promise as methods that may reduce cluster compactness and lateral shoot development. They indicated that the overall costs were similar to mechanical hedging and mechanical leaf removal.



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