Contract
UNL- Sensitive Crop Locator - #18-13-080 - $4,000

Contact
Paul Read
UNL Plant Sciences Building Room
pread@unlnotes.unl.edu
(402) 472-5136

Issue of Interest
This project was initiated in cooperation with Craig Romary, NDA, Dr. Donald Rundquist, and UNL CALMIT, to provide a simple and easy to use map of crops sensitive to herbicide drift. Grapes are very sensitive to phenoxy herbicides, especially when volatilization occurs. Therefore, a need was identified to create awareness of the sensitivity of grapes to herbicides.

Approach to Problem
This problem required significant data acquisition from growers. It was decided to employ a graduate student, Ting Chen, to do the necessary grower contacts and compile the data. The data acquired by Ms. Chen was incorporated into the database that was being developed by Mr. Romary, Dr. Rundquist, and Dr. Read.

Goals/Achievement of Goals
The goal was to provide a simple and easy to use map of crops sensitive to herbicide drift. The database is now functioning and can be accessed by those who are applying pesticides. In addition to the database, the sensitive crop locator program's web site includes the NWGGA publication, "Living Near a Vineyard," which provides specific information of how pesticides can greatly impact grape growth. The web site also has a database, which growers can access to inquire of potential applicators in their area. This allows for those growers to contact applicators and inform them of their operation before any potential damage occurs.

Results, Conclusions, Lessons Learned
A searchable web-based sensitive crop locator map was developed for grapes and can be accessed on the NDA's web site. Inclusion in this database is voluntary, which means that not all grape growers may be in the database. As this web site is relatively new, the full impact of the database is unclear as of this time. However, the web site appears user-friendly and offers a wealth of information for growers and applicators. Concerning finances, the funds were used to pay the salary of a staff assistant to input data into the database.

Progress According to Outcome Measures
Although the sensitive crop locator was developed using grapes as a model, this concept has now been extended for use with other sensitive crops, thus extending the application of what was learned in creating the sensitive crop locator map for grapes to a much greater audience. It is hoped that this database will create greater awareness among applicators of grape growing sites, which will prevent loss of fruit due to herbicide drift.