

Contract 18-13-114

UNL Viticulture Program – Grape and Winery Visits

Grant Amount

\$4,200

Contact Information

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Issue of Interest

Due to fiscal constraints at the University of Nebraska, funds have not been sufficient to provide much needed on-site visits for a significant number of new growers, established growers, and wineries. In addition, travel to the International Cool Climate Symposium was deemed valuable for garnering information useful to Nebraska's grape and wine industry.

Approach to Problem

UNVP personnel planned to visit as many as 25 vineyards and wineries in Nebraska.

Goals/Achievement of Goals

The goal of the project was to visit as many grape growers and winery operations as the limited time and funds would allow. At each visit, answering grower questions and those of winery personnel would be beneficial to all involved. These visits were conducted by Paul Read, UNVP Director, and Stephen Gamet, UNVP Viticulture Technician. We were able to make 40 visits and were gratefully received by those whom were visited. We were able to answer many questions and thus assist growers and winery personnel to improve their operations.

Results, Conclusions, Lessons Learned

Observations were accomplished regarding disease problems, winter and storm damage, vine nutrition, irrigation systems, bird and other vertebrate pest control, insect infestations, herbicide damage, and weed control. We were able to advise on most of these problems and also to discuss canopy management and trellis systems.

Concerning lessons learned, growers have a greater than anticipated need to have professional visits to help solve problems encountered in their vineyards. Secondly, we were able to help solve specific problems in nearly every vineyard visited. Thirdly, we were able to gain insights into what needs are priorities in the industry. This will enable us to better plan educational programming and future research thrusts that will be helpful to Nebraska's grape and wine industry.

Progress Achieved According to Outcome Measures

It is clear that visits to growers are well-received and that, if funding allows, more efforts to continue making such visits throughout the state should be made. Such visits often help growers solve problems before they become serious deterrents to quality grape production.

They also provide an overview of challenges encountered by the industry and will enable the UNVP to enhance educational programming efforts.

Financial Report

Travel expenses	\$	2944.00
Conference registration	\$	875.00
Overhead	\$	381.00
Total	\$	4200.00