

NGWB Grant Final Report (FY12-13)

Contract 18-13-217
NWGGA – Education Program

Grant Amount
\$10,000

Contact Information

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Issue of Interest

Nebraska Wine and Grape Association will hold a series of educational seminars across the state. These seminars will focus on areas of interest for winery establishments and grape growers. The purpose is to continue education efforts to provide the latest industry related best practices and other technological innovations to wineries and grape growers across the state.

Approach to Problem

As part of its ongoing education program, the NWGGA hosted a Drift Watch Seminar in cooperation with Southeast Community College Continuing Education and Iowa State University Warren County Extension. The seminar was located at Southeast Community College in Nebraska. Herbicide drift and volatility continues to be a problem for grape growers across the regional. One avenue to in attempting to mitigate the problem is educating growers on the importance of registering for the Drift Watch Program. Drift Watch is the predominant national database of sensitive crop locations created to help applicators reduce instances of drift.

Goals/Achievement of Goals

The goal of this seminar to is educate growers on the Drift Watch program and help ensure that all Nebraska grape growers are listed on the Drift Watch registry. This is intended to help reduce the instances of herbicide drift and damage to vineyards.

Results, Conclusions, Lessons Learned

The seminar demonstrated the necessity for growers to register with Drift Watch and the necessity for applicators to continually monitor the registry. If growers do not participate in the program and register their vineyards, their location may not be known when herbicide applications are taking place, therefore increasing risk of damage. Likewise, applicators must use due diligence in checking the registry prior to use of herbicides. This is a critical issue as not only do the vineyards experience damage and loss in instances of drift and volatility, but by extension the wineries will experience effects as well, created by loss of crops for their product.

Progress Achieved According to Outcome Measures

By hosting the Drift Watch seminar, the NWGGA created increased awareness of the program for its members and drove home the importance of grower participation.

Financial Report

The NWGGA expended \$990.47 of the \$10,000 grant to pay for a Drift Watch Seminar at Southeast Community College in Nebraska.