



Nebraska VineLines

Holiday Edition

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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



Striegler Viticulture Workshop Well-Received

On December 3, 2011 in the Downtown Lincoln Holiday Inn, Dr. R. Keith Striegler made stimulating presentations on “Vineyard Management for Optimum Fruit and Wine Quality” and “What’s in the Future for the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry?” An internationally renowned viticulture consultant, researcher, speaker and teacher, Striegler emphasized the importance of climate, cultivar and site selection, and cultural practices. He made many telling points, including the fact that cultural practices that modify the canopy density can alter the vine microclimate and can significantly impact the fruit composition. Echoing the sentiments of many professionals in the industry, he stressed that the final wine quality is derived to a large degree from grape composition, which in turn results from vineyard management practices. He focused on the fact that crop load management will help achieve yield that is in balance with the vegetative growth of the vine. Striegler gave examples of canopy, fruit, microclimate and canopy density characters that contribute to achieving the balance and quality desired for optimum wine quality. He also provided advice on canopy management for vertical shoot positioned (VSP), the open lyre, single curtain and double curtain training systems. Many of his comments were richly illustrated with photographs of good and not-so-good examples (what TO Do - and what NOT to do).

Dr. Striegler’s discussion of “What’s in the Future for the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry” was particularly intriguing, with the suggestion that new cultivars will be a huge influence on the potential success of this rapidly developing industry. He summarized the Missouri component of the NE-1020 program (cooperative cultivar evaluation among more than half of the northern and Midwest states) and strongly indicated that

he sees this cooperative program as an important part of the industry’s future. The National Clean Plant Network was also emphasized as highly influential as the industry continues to develop. Both of these presentations and the Panel Discussion engendered many questions and lively discussion followed. The PhD work of Christina Bavougian on mulches and ground covers, along with the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program up-date also led to questions and valuable discussions.

The day concluded with a tasting of excellent Nebraska wines. Thanks to **Glacial Till**, **Soaring Wings** and **Schillingbridge** wineries for sharing their outstanding wines. Participants were especially impressed by the Chambourcin wines, wines that exhibited depth of color, body and excellent complexity. ♦

Fifteenth Forum Promises to be “Outstanding”

The Planning Committee has been actively working on the program and logistics for the 15th Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show, to be held March 1-3, 2012 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The NWGGA has been soliciting participants in the Trade Show, with a large number already committed to be vending their wares at the Forum. An exciting lineup of featured speakers includes Dr. Horst Caspari, Colorado State University Viticulturist; Laurie Forster, “The Wine Coach”; and Dr. Steve Menke, CSU State Enologist. Many of you will remember Steve Menke, who has been helping with the Nebraska wine quality assurance project and also Dr. Caspari from his fall workshop from a few years ago on irrigation and water management. Laurie Forster will headline the Marketing and Promotion

See page 2, Outstanding



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segment of the program and will provide a provocative and exciting program for the Annual Banquet. Drs. Caspari and Menke will provide the leadership for the viticulture and enology sessions, respectively. More details will be on the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program and the NWGGA web sites and will also be reported in the next issue of the Nebraska VineLines. This is one Forum and Trade Show that you will not want to miss! So put the dates March 1, 2 and 3 on your 2012 calendar. Advice and ideas are always welcome. Contact Paul Read (pread@unl.edu) or Steve Gamet (sgamet@unl.edu) [UNVP], Richard Hilske (rhilske@gmail.com) or Seth McFarland (seth@macscreekvineyards.com), the NWGGA President and President-elect, respectively, or Andre Mick (andre@nebraskawines.com) or Jason Hayes (jason@nebraskawines.com) [NWGGA] regarding the Trade Show. ♦

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Nebraska Grape and Winery Board

Board Services Contractor

Request for Proposal

2011 – 2012 Fiscal Year

Introduction

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is seeking to contract with an individual interested in serving as a part-time Board Services Contractor to the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board. The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) document is to provide an overview of the duties, qualifications, background information, scope of work, agreement terms, compensation, application submission instructions, and evaluation and selection criteria associated with this position.

Job Title

Nebraska Grape and Winery Board Services Contractor.

Position Overview

In cooperation with NDA, the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board intends to contract for an individual who will work as an Independent Contractor. The Contractor will be charged to complete various tasks and the agreement will allow NDA and the Board the ability to request additional related tasks as needed. The Contractor is expected to be hired by January 2012, at which time he/she will enter into a contractual agreement with NDA. The Contractor's work will begin as soon as possible, following the selection process.

Candidate Qualifications

The goal is to contract with an energetic individual with skills in time management, oral and written communication, and literary proficiency as it relates to writing, spelling, punctuation, and proofreading. Candidates must readily have access to a personal computer that includes, at a minimum, a word processor and Internet access. Utilization of computer skills is required. Knowledge of and/or experience in Nebraska's agricultural industry, particularly in the grape and wine industry, is preferred. While travel with this position will be minimal, the Contractor must have the ability to provide independent transportation, as attendance at all Board meetings and some industry-related events is mandatory. The Contractor represents and warrants that he/she has the requisite training, skills, and experience necessary to perform the work.

Background Information

The Nebraska Grape and Winery Board was created to (a) establish a public forum whereby any producer of wine, grapes, or other wine-producing agricultural products has the opportunity, at least once, annually, to discuss with the Board its policy and procedures; (b) keep minutes of its meetings and other books and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the Board and to make these records available for examination upon request by members of the public; (c) authorize and approve the Department of Agriculture's expenditure of funds collected pursuant to §53-304; (d) serve as an advisory panel to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission in all matters pertaining to the wine industry; and (e) adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out §§53-30 to 53-305 of the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board Statute.

NDA serves as one of the ex officio members of the Board. For administrative purposes, Board funds are located in the Department of Agriculture and defined as the Winery and Grape Producers' Promotional Fund. All revenue credited to this fund

Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program Seminar

The Food Processing Center is offering a one-day seminar for all individuals interested in exploring the idea of starting a food manufacturing business. Please encourage interested individuals in your community to attend. The "Recipe to Reality" seminar will be offered on January 14, 2012. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration deadline is December 15, 2011. Contact Jill Gifford at 402-472-2819 or jgifford1@unl.edu for an information packet. ♦

SUPPORT YOUR UNIVERSITY VITICULTURE PROGRAM . . . and Get a Tax Deduction too!

Many people make year-end tax-deductible contributions to their favorite charities, but did you know that a tax-deductible contribution may be made to support the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program? A contribution can be made to the **University of Nebraska Foundation**, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Ste. 300, Lincoln, NE 68508. Provide the notation "Gift for the University of Nebraska Grape Cultivar Evaluation Fund #3017." In these days of tight budgets, every dollar counts—by your donation, you can help the research and education programs and at the same time, gain a tax deduction.

Thanks for your support! ♦

The University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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

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NGWG Contractor, continued from page 2

is used by NDA at the direction of and in cooperation with the Board to develop and maintain programs for the research and advancement of the growing, selling, marketing, and promotion of grapes, fruits, berries, honey and other agricultural products and their byproducts grown and produced in Nebraska for use in the wine industry.

Scope of Work

The Independent Contractor shall provide the following services that are specified below. These services shall be termed “work” herein.

- (1) Collect and forward all project proposals to Board members.
- (2) Periodically monitor progression of Board-funded grant projects.
- (3) Collect final reports and invoices from grant recipients.
- (4) Submit invoices and receipts to NDA in a timely manner.
- (5) Prepare year-end documentation that includes funded project proposals, contracts, and final reports.
- (6) Compile Board contact information, meeting minutes, grant application instructions, news releases, fiscal reports, grants, bylaws, and Board statutes for assembly into the Grape and Winery Board’s Annual Reports.
- (7) Write and compile Board meeting minutes, under direction of Board Secretary.
- (8) Ensure submission of Board Expense Reimbursement Requests to NDA.
- (9) Collaborate and communicate with NDA and the Board on a regular basis.
- (10) Schedule the location, dates, and times of all Board meetings and send this information to Nebraska print media outlets.
- (11) Coordinate and attend all Board meetings and some industry-related events.
- (12) Provide general administrative office support to NDA and the Board, as needed.

The Contractor shall perform the work and accomplish such tasks as identified above. These will be designated as the responsibilities of the Contractor. The Contractor shall have the authority to incur costs and expenses necessary to perform the work, subject to the limitation specified in this document and the Agreement, and subject to approval by NDA and the Board. NDA and/or the Board may, from time to time, unilaterally increase or decrease the work to be performed. All of the provisions in this RFP and the Agreement are intended to be complementary in nature, and any requirements mentioned by one and not mentioned in another section shall nevertheless be performed to the same extent as though required by all.

Terms of Agreement

The initial Agreement with NDA will expire on June 30, 2012, with five successive one-year options to renew. This shall include sufficient time to complete the schedule of the work proposed and to complete additional tasks as identified by NDA and the Board. Funding for this position is subject to legislative appropriations and funding being available. The Agreement will incorporate the complete understanding of the parties. Any modification of the Agreement will be in writing and executed by each party of the Agreement to be valid.

The Contractor will work closely with NDA on many projects as they relate to the grape and wine industry. NDA expects that the Contractor will be capable of completing all of the work assigned and will meet all of the expectations of the position, large and small.

Compensation

Compensation shall be set at approximately ten hours per week, with a total yearly value not to exceed \$5,000. After the Agreement begins, it is understood that, if additional costs should be incurred or the total yearly value needs to increase, with the mutual written consent of all parties tied to the Agreement and provided resources are available, the Agreement may be amended. The compensation package for this position may be used to pay for work performed, office supplies, communication equipment, travel costs, and other incidental expenses directly associated with the agreement.

Application Submission Instructions

Interested applicants must submit in a sealed envelope marked RFP #3797, a cover letter and résumé for review and approval by NDA and the Board. Cover letter and/or résumé should provide information sufficient for NDA to evaluate the proposal against criteria outlined below. This RFP process has been established to provide all interested parties an opportunity to apply for this position. Cover letters and résumés are due to NDA by close of business day on **Friday, December 30, 2011**. Documents must be received on or before the above date.

Submit documents by U.S. mail to: Casey Foster, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 94947, Lincoln, NE 68509-4947.

Evaluation Criteria

Once the deadline has expired, all signed bid proposals will be competitively ranked and scored by NDA. Applicants will be ranked against the evaluation criteria established in this RFP. The evaluation criteria and respective points for each are as follows:

- (1) Applicant’s coursework, training, or educational credentials from an accredited college, university, vocational or other post-secondary educational institution (5 points);
- (2) Applicant’s background of Nebraska agriculture and/or the grape and wine industry (10 points);
- (3) Applicant’s training or education in Nebraska agriculture and/or the grape and wine industry (10 points);
- (4) Applicant’s knowledge in Nebraska agriculture or the grape and/or the wine industry (10 points);
- (5) Applicant’s oral and written communication skills (10 points);
- (6) Ability to perform the general duties of the position, as outlined in the scope of work, for approximately ten hours per week, with a yearly value not to exceed \$5,000 (50 points); and
- (7) Applicant’s ability to obtain transportation to attend all Board meetings and some industry-related events (5 points).

Selection Criteria

The applicants with the highest combined scores will be interviewed by NDA and the Board and scored again using the same seven criteria listed above. The applicant selected for this position must have satisfactorily completed the required duties of this position by June 30, 2012. The Agreement between NDA and the Contractor will serve a term that will expire on this date, with five successive one-year options to renew.

Questions regarding this position should be directed to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 800-422-6692 or casey.foster@nebraska.gov. ♦



Nebraska VineLines Calendar of Events

Coming February 23-25, 2012: 8th Annual Cold Climate Conference, St. Paul, MN.

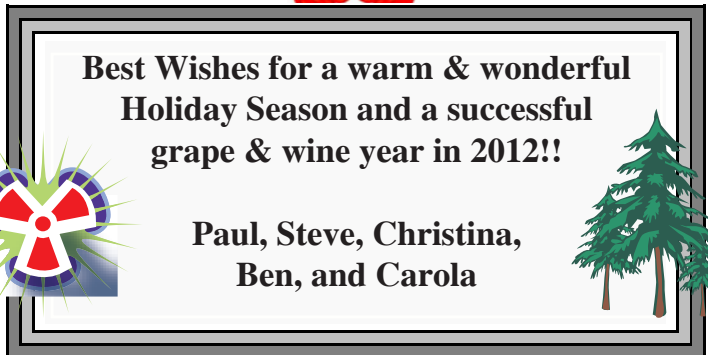
The Eastern Winery Exposition will take place on March 7 & 8, 2012 at the New Lancaster Convention Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. For general information or information on exhibiting contact Bob Mignarri, 401-885-8788, ext. 11 or Bob@easternwineryexposition.com. Contact Richard Leahy at 434-293-6230 or Richard@easternwineryexposition.com concerning the conference program.

For more information about these events and other important updates, visit us on the Web at:
<http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture>.



Future Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Forums

- 2012 – March 1-3, Holiday Inn, Kearney
- 2013 – February 28, March 1 & 2, Holiday Inn, Kearney
- 2014 – February 27-28, March 1, Holiday Inn, Kearney



•Wine is the most civilized and civilizing of beverages. –Leon Adams



Happy



Holidays!!!

