



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln EXTENSION

**University of Nebraska Viticulture Program**

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October 2017  
Issue XX – 4

### **VINDEMIA BECKONS!**

It's not too late to consider attending the first ever "Vindemia" event sponsored by the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association scheduled for October 22-24, 2017 at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

There will be lots of outstanding speakers and numerous opportunities to interact and network with fellow grape growers, winery personnel and Nebraska wine enthusiasts. Keynote speakers include Jim Tresize, President of WineAmerica, and Paul Huttner Chief Meteorologist with Minnesota Public Radio, while familiar speakers relating to wines and winemaking include Steve Menke, Colorado State University, and Ellie Butz, Scott Labs. Several speakers will stimulate attendees with regard to promotion and marketing (Kelsey Vala, Vala's Pumpkin Patch; Jennifer Reeder, Deer Springs Winery; Barry McFarland, Mac's Creek Winery; and Elizabeth Slater, In-Short Direct Marketing). There will be lots for the grower, too: Anne Fennell, South Dakota State University, Larry Shafer, Agro-K Corporation, and a Nebraska Grower Panel on Mechanization, to mention a few examples.

Lots of great information will be crammed into this three-day program in Nebraska City – see you there!

Full registration details are available at: <http://vindemiane.com/> or contact Lori Paulsen, Executive Director of the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association (402-310-7264, [lpaulsen@nebraskawines.com](mailto:lpaulsen@nebraskawines.com) )

### **REGIONAL TAILGATES HUGELY SUCCESSFUL!**

This year we decided to try the idea of regional tailgates as an alternative to more conventional all-day traditional field days. This is an approach that the Viticulture professionals in New York's Finger Lakes region have used to great success. After consulting with Hans Walter-Peterson, Cornell University's Finger Lakes Viticulture Specialist, we decided to try "tailgate" meetings in a similar fashion to those that had proved so successful in the Finger Lakes. One of the advantages of tailgates is that because they are held late in the day, it usually means an escape from blistering summer heat. Also, by having them in different parts of the state, it is possible for local growers and grape and wine enthusiasts to attend after working at their day job. Tailgates also work well for winery personnel, since having the tailgates during the week avoids conflicting with weekend winery events that usually are an important part of winery cash-flow.

We held four regional tailgates during the summer in different parts of the state. The first took place at Ron Heskett's vineyard (Ron is the owner of Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery) near Brownville, Nebraska on July 17, with the second tailgate taking place on July 25 at the Homestead vineyard near Wilber, owned by Henry R. and Henry W. Prokop. On August 1, we journeyed to Central City to visit Prairie Creek Vineyards (Nick Ryan, owner) and finished our series of Regional Tailgates at "How Far the Walk" vineyards on the north side of Paxton, owned by the Gibson family. Each tailgate showcased different features: the changing trellis systems and specialized management at the Heskett vineyard, the all-steel post and efficient set-up for mechanical harvest at the Prokops, machine harvester and hedging demonstrations at Nick Ryan's,

and exceptional great-yielding Prairie Star and Frontenac Gris vineyards near Paxton. Lots to learn at these tailgates and great networking and discussions!

We will try this approach to educational events again in 2018 and will schedule the tailgates in different regions so that we can reach every area of the grape-growing part of Nebraska at least every two to three years. Watch the Nebraska VineLines for dates of 2018 tailgates, with the first being in late winter/early spring

to demonstrate and practice pruning, learn about winter injury evaluation and management, and crop load planning, among other opportunities for discussion and practice.

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### **Reminder Calendar:**

**October 22-24, 2017** Vindemia, the NWGGA celebration of our industry. Lied Lodge Conference Center – Nebraska City, NE: <http://vindemiane.com/>

**January 5-6, 2018** Kansas Grape Growers & Winemakers Association Conference – Double Tree Hotel, Lawrence, KS: <http://kansasgrapesandwines.com/events/annualconference>

**January 11-13, 2018** Great Plains Growers Conference – Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO: <http://www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org/>

**January 23-25, 2018** Unified Symposium, Sacramento Convention Center: <https://www.unifiedsymposium.org/>

**March 6-8, 2018** Eastern Winery Expo – Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA. <http://www.easternwineryexposition.com/>

**March 15-17, 2018** Cold Climate Conference, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. More information soon at: <http://mngrapegrowers.com/conference>

**June 20-22, 2018** The GrapeVine Magazine Midwest Viniculture Expo 2018 – The RiverCenter, Davenport, IA. Sponsored by The GrapeVine Magazine, information at <http://thegrapevinemagazine.net/>



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