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University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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TAILGATES ARE FUN AND EDUCATIONAL!
SAVE THE DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO
–July 31 & August 7, 2019

Tailgate II was held on July 2nd at the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program High Tunnel for a discussion of table grapes, followed by visits to the ongoing wine grape research vineyard which were highlights of the Tailgate. The table grape project is now in its third growing season, so a modest harvest is projected for several of the cultivars being tested. As an addendum (because it was only released last year), we also have second-year ‘Everest’ plants on trial in the high tunnel. ‘Everest’ is the new table grape from Cornell University’s breeding program, named ‘Everest’ because it is said to reach previously unknown “heights” in terms of fruit quality and productivity. The wine grape program has continued to include new selections from breeding programs to replace cultivars and selections that are removed as they are proven to be useful or rejected as unsuitable for Nebraska vineyards, so it continues to be instructive and educational for Nebraska’s grape and wine industry.

What will we do in the next Tailgates? We’ll focus on what you need to do as you prepare for harvest. Although this hot weather may mean harvest dates will advance to earlier than normal (what’s that?) harvest timings, it’s timely to begin thinking about preparations for harvest.

- Have you estimated likely crop load?
- Wineries, do you have enough tank space?

- Growers, do you have adequate plans for harvest personnel?
- Are you picking by hand or do you have access to machine harvest?
- Is the harvester checked out for routine maintenance, does it need repairs or parts replaced? Extra bow rods?
- Growers are you scouting your vineyards for the invasion of pesky critters? There have been recent reports of Japanese beetles in some vineyards (and in my raspberries!).

As a reminder, although you may have applied the appropriate fungicide sprays before and after bloom, and those sprays often will be sufficient in dry years, diseases such as powdery mildew and the bunch rot complex can be problems that emerge, so diligence in evaluating your vines will be of paramount importance. Remember to be cognizant of PHI (pre-harvest intervals) because we are at or soon will be beyond legal limits of application (for example, Mancozeb and similar products must be discontinued 66 days before projected harvest).

You may also be moving forward with leaf thinning, but it may be getting late, so it must be done judiciously. Suddenly exposed fruit will be especially susceptible to sunburn. Obviously leaf-thinning can assist in disease control by opening up the canopy and is especially valuable for reducing incidence of powdery mildew and Botrytis bunch rot. Most experts suggest that an average of one leaf layer in the fruit zone (and in the canopy) is a good target.

There continues to be debate regarding the impact of crop reduction on fruit and therefore wine quality. Your University of Nebraska Viticulture Program team has recently embarked upon research intended to shed light on this question. We will have more information on this topic in the future, but it is important to remember that if intending to reduce crop load it should be done as early as possible in order to have an impact on the vine's physiology.

Tailgates resume on July 31 (Tailgate III)-TBA

We will have our first of two tailgates focused on the above topics and on discussions of what you may find interesting. Location and agenda are yet to be determined. We will announce these soon. Watch for a special announcement made via the VineLines Listserv. Come prepared to ask questions and to discuss with colleagues what may be on your mind (or in your vineyard/winery!)

Tailgate IV

Where? Cellar 426 Winery, 1402 Dennis Dean Road, Ashland, Nebraska

When? 4:30pm to 7pm

Cost? Free! (Although you might buy a bottle or more of Cellar 426's award-winning wines) Cellar 426 has a gorgeous view from their winery building, we'll see their soon to be

netted vines and have a chance to have great discussions and perhaps have your questions answered. See the Cellar 426 Winery web site (<https://cellar426.com/>) for further directions and a map.

More details on will be forthcoming on Tailgates– watch the UNVP website <http://viticulture.unl.edu> and the Nebraska VineLines for further information.

Tailgate V is tentatively set for a date in August to see the results (harvest) of the High Tunnel Table Grape project on the UNL campus. The date will be announced when we have a better idea of likely harvest timing. Again watch the UNVP website and the Nebraska Vinelines for further information.

2019 International Cold Climate Wine Competition – August 15, 2019

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

3675 Arboretum Drive

Chaska, Minnesota 55318

Wines must be entered by August 2, 2019, registration at this URL

<https://www.mngrapes.org/page/ICCWC2019>

Wines must be received by 4:30 August 9, 2019.

Questions? Write to

sara.schmuck@mngrapes.org

Reminder Calendar:

July 16-18, 2019 Digital Viticulture Symposium vineyard tour & equipment demonstration and Nelson J. Shaulis symposium at the ASEV-Eastern Section meetings. [Details.](#)

July 31, 2019 Tailgate III Location to be announced.

August 7, 2019 Tailgate IV Location: Cellar 426 Winery, Ashland, Nebraska, <https://cellar426.com>

August 15-16, 2019, North American Grape Breeders Conference – [Missouri State University](#), Mountain Grove, MO. Details later.

August 15, 2019 the 2019 International Cold Climate Wine Competition. Info and registration at <https://www.mngrapes.org/event/ICCWC> .

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2020 Events

July 12-17, 2020, International Cool Climate Wine Symposium - CCOVI at Brock University – St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Details: <http://iccws2020.ca/>



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