



# Nebraska VineLines

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln EXTENSION

University of Nebraska Viticulture Program

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Issue XXI – 1

## **SERIAL TAILGATES SCHEDULED –MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND!**

The University of Nebraska Viticulture Program (UNVP) received such good response from the Regional Tailgates held last summer that we have decided to continue providing tailgates that are held during the week and start late in the afternoon. This concept enables interested grape and wine folks to participate after their “day job” and at the same time doesn’t conflict with weekend winery events, thus enabling winery personnel to attend as well. We have therefore scheduled two “serial” tailgates, one for the eastern part of the state and one in a more central location.

What do we mean by “serial” tailgates? The plan is to provide education at the same location over a series of meetings and follow the same vines throughout the growing season. The initial tailgate will focus on pruning information and hands-on pruning practice, discussion about yield management, evaluating and managing winter injury and other practices appropriate to late winter vineyard management. At each tailgate location, specific vines will be pruned and evaluated at the first tailgate; for the second tailgate, these same vines will be observed at about cap-fall (flowering time) with evaluation of the vines related to potential crop load, the need for cluster thinning (if any) and disease management issues. One or two later tailgates, probably near veraison and/or harvest, involving the same vines will allow participants to assess the impact of their pruning practices at the first tailgate and their treatments of the vines at the second tailgate that took place at cap-fall. The second and third dates will be posted on our UNL Viticulture web site

<<http://viticulture.unl.edu>> and included in future issues of the Nebraska VineLines.

### **THE FIRST SERIAL TAILGATE:**

**When?** Monday, February 26, 2018 at 4:30pm – feel free to arrive later as your schedule allows - we expect to continue until 6:00pm or later.  
**Where?** James Arthur Vineyards, 2001 W. Raymond Road, Raymond, Nebraska  
**Cost?** Free, but bring your own *secateurs* (French for hand pruners)  
Alternative date if inclement weather dictates:  
Monday, March 5, 2018

### **THE SECOND SERIAL TAILGATE:**

**When?** Wednesday, February 28, 2018 beginning at 4:30pm – feel free to arrive later as your schedule allows – we expect to continue until 6:00pm or later.  
**Where?** Miletta Vista Winery, 1732 Highway281, St. Paul, Nebraska  
**Cost?** Free, but bring your own pruners  
Alternative date if inclement weather dictates:  
Wednesday, March 7, 2018

### **REGIONAL SUMMER TAILGATES**

Additional stand-alone regional tailgates will take place in different parts of the state during the growing season in order to address other vineyard management topics and issues that may emerge. Dates, topics and locations will be announced in future issues of the Nebraska VineLines and posted on our UNL viticulture web site  
<<http://viticulture.unl.edu>>

## **MID-WINTER BUD DAMAGE**

With temperatures plummeting to near-record lows in some locations, it is worth collecting a few canes and bringing them inside to evaluate bud damage and possibly cambial damage. Letting the canes warm up for a day or so may give a more accurate assessment of bud and cambium damage. Bud damage in the Lincoln area has been minimal following the daily low temperatures experienced as follows:

December 24, 2017 - +9.12 F  
December 25, 2017 - +3.95 F  
December 26, 2017 - +0.04 F  
December 27, 2017 - **minus** 2.47 F  
December 28, 2017 - +8.96 F  
December 29, 2017 - +7.1 F  
December 30, 2017 - **minus** 0.59 F  
January 1, 2018 - **minus** 12.96 F  
January 3, 2018 - +11.45 F  
December 31, 2017 - **minus** 10.08  
January 2, 2018 - **minus** 5.65 F  
January 4, 2018 - +4.35 F  
**January 5, 2018 - +6.31 F**  
January 6, 2018 - +5.37 F  
January 7, 2018 - +24.45

Results of cutting 50 buds taken on January 5, 2018 were:

Delaware - 98% primary bud survival  
Frontenac - 100% primary bud survival  
Leon Millot - 88% primary bud survival  
Marquette - 76% primary bud survival  
Edelweiss - 93% primary bud survival

Obviously this minimal damage will be of limited concern, but there are many more potential pitfalls as the grapevines continue in dormancy and begin to deacclimate. As always, timing is everything, including weather yet to come. It is always worth noting that management practices from the previous growing season will have had impacts on hardening in the fall, thus influencing winter hardiness. We will look forward to a potentially great vintage in 2018.

## **Death of Famed Illinois Vineyard Enthusiast Jim Nickell hits Nebraska Industry Hard**

James F. (Jim) Nickell died on December 26, 2017. Jim was well-known by early Nebraska growers (Eric Nelson, Dale Lilyhorn and many more) who sought his sage advice when he attended several of the early Nebraska Winery and Grape Grower Forums and they reciprocated

by attending one or more of his annual field days produced by the Western Illinois Grape Producers Associated Corporation, affectionately nicknamed "WIGGPAC". Jim was one of the early founders of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association, in addition to founding the western Illinois organization (WIGGPAC). I was fortunate to get to know Jim upon his frequent trips to Nebraska and to be invited to speak at the WIGGPAC field day in 2002. He was passionate about all that he did, including his early careers in education and in livestock husbandry - he was especially proud of training and exhibiting his gaited mules. Jim loved to experiment on his 45+ acres of vineyard and enjoyed even more his passion for creating exceptional wines from the grapes that he grew, including numbered selections from the Cornell and Minnesota breeding programs. I recall fondly sampling wines in his cellar and taking a few bottles with me upon my departure. Perhaps one of the best of them was made from what he called New York 76 (now known as 'Aromella') - it was indeed really good. Jim was always happy to share gems of wisdom garnered from his vast experience and avid reading of viticultural literature. Jim, you will be missed by all who knew you. To quote Mike White, "He was a mentor and peer to many leaders in our Midwest industry." Paul E. Read

## **Note from Jim Shaw at Soaring Wings Vineyard and Brewing, In Search of Growers**

We need more growers. A couple recently departed us due to family reasons. Please let people know we need them if you can. We are looking primarily for Frontenac, but also need whites. These are negotiable. We will pay top dollar for top level fruit and above market on everything else. Cheers,  
Jim Shaw  
Soaring Wings Vineyard and Brewing  
17111 S 138<sup>th</sup> St  
Springfield NE 68059  
402-253-2479  
Cell: 402-699-2057

## **Viticulture Position – Highland Community College – Wamego, KS**

**What:** This position is responsible for maintaining the college vineyards in collaboration with the V & E Program Director. In addition, this position includes a teaching load of 3 – 9 credits per semester (and possibly one course during summer) depending upon demand and time availability. Finally, the position will assist in research and extension duties for the Kansas grape

and wine industry as well as workshop teaching and hosting.

**Education:** Bachelor's or higher in viticulture, enology, or horticulture.

**Details:** <https://highlandcc.edu/pages/campus-positions/viticulture-instructor-vineyard-manager>

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## **Reminder Calendar:**

**January 23-25, 2018** Unified Symposium, Sacramento Convention Center:

<https://www.unifiedsymposium.org/>

**January 25-26, 2018** Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, IA 50023. Details: [http://www.ifvga.org/index.cfm/51266/90340/2018\\_annual\\_conference](http://www.ifvga.org/index.cfm/51266/90340/2018_annual_conference)

**February 2-3, 2018** North Dakota Grape and Wine Association Annual Conference – Grant Hotel, Minot ND. <http://www.ndgwa.org/conference/>

**February 5, 2018** UW-Madison Winemaking Workshop – Wollersheim Winery & Distillery, Prairie du Sac, WI RSVP to Nick Smith by January 15<sup>th</sup> [nsmith35@wisc.edu](mailto:nsmith35@wisc.edu)

**February 18-19, 2018** Iowa Wine Growers Association annual conference, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, IA 50023. <https://www.iowawinegrowers.org/events/annual-conference>

**February 23-24, 2018** Winter Wine Festival and Conference. Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Association, Springfield, IL Details: <http://illinoiswine.com/events-page/annual-conference/>

**March 5-7, 2018** Show-Me Missouri Grape and Wine Institute Conference. Hampton Inn, Columbia, MO. Details later: <http://easternwineryexposition.com/license-to-steal-conference>

**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>

**March 16-17, 2018** Midwest Aronia Conference at the Omaha Regency Marriot, Omaha, NE. Details later: <http://midwestaronia.org/>

**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/>

**July 30-Aug 2, 2018** VitiNord 2018 in Sweden and Denmark. Details And Registration: <http://www.vitinord2018.org/>



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