



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jennifer Reichert

Virginia Wine Board Grants and Budget Management (contractor)

vwbgrants@stonywater.com

Virginia Wine Board Grants Prepare for the Future

Richmond, VA (August 1, 2025) – The Virginia Wine Board (VWB) proudly awarded 15 grants totaling \$523,093 to 12 unique applicants for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The VWB program funds research, education, and marketing projects that further a vibrant and sustainable Virginia wine industry, with grants that lay the foundation for growers, producers, and business teams in Virginia to create healthy vineyards, quality wine, and excitement within and beyond Virginia.

“This year’s exciting set of grants builds on prior investments, expands our portfolio in welcome new directions, and prepares Virginia for the changing future. We are particularly glad to welcome several first-time awardees,” said Dr. Megan Seibel, VWB Chair. “Thanks go to the seven insightful members of the Technical Committee who informed the Board’s decision by assessing the impact, budget, results, project plan and applicant capabilities of research and education proposals. The VWB also thanks the 22 applicants, the engine of this grant program.”

Research grants represent 60% of awarded funds. Four of the eight research grants take aim at vineyard pests (spotted lanternfly, downy mildew, Pierce’s disease, and testing for fungicide resistance) to impact quality and profitability of Virginia wine. Others begin piloting a Virginia-specific sustainability program drawing on lessons elsewhere; provide cidermakers needed information on cider apples over time; compare under-vine cover crops to optimize production goals; and investigate the impacts of variety, vineyard and vintage on phenolics to inform winemaker decisions.

Six education grants representing 30% of awarded funds ensure Virginia’s wine industry benefits from the most current information and resources. These grants support Virginia Vineyards Association, Virginia Wineries Association, and Virginia Cider Association technical meetings, updates on regulations and winery resources, and the annual Commercial Grape Report. In addition, Nelson County received a grant for the Cost of Production Review project to establish a baseline for wine production costs across Virginia in support of profitably increasing yield, widening margins, and supporting quality.

Finally, under a marketing grant Wine Cellar Stories Productions will produce a three-part video-on-demand Virginia Wine Docu-series to showcase Virginia’s diverse wine regions.

More information on the grant program, including a complete list of funded projects, can be found at virginiawine.org/pages/grants. Final reports will be posted [here](#) when projects complete.

Created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1984 as part of Virginia's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and funded by the wine liter tax, the Virginia Wine Board promotes the interests of vineyards and wineries in the Commonwealth through research, education, and marketing.

For more information on the grant program, contact Jennifer Reichert at vwbgrants@stonywater.com. For media requests or more information on the Virginia Wine Industry, please contact the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office at 804-344-8200 or information@virginiawine.org.

###