

**Virginia Wine Board interim report  
15 June 2005 – 31 December 2005**

**Project: Viticulture Extension Assistant**

P.I.: Tony K. Wolf

Amount funded in FY 2006: \$23,133

Balance of FY06 funds as of 12 January 2006: \$10,742

**Summary of Activities: 15 June, 2005 – 31 December, 2005**

Fritz Westover, Viticulture Research-Extension Associate, was hired into this position in mid-January 2005. Fritz obtained his MSc degree in plant pathology and his BS degree in horticulture, both from Penn State. Activities over the past 6 months include the following:

Viticulture Publication Work:

- Revised vineyard *Site Selection* chapter of new edition of Eastern Winegrape Grower's Guide.
- Created manuscript for web-based *Pruning Demonstration* providing stepwise instructions to guide novice vineyardist including web links to extension publications. (In progress)
- Wrote article: Options for Treating Existing Powdery Mildew (PM) Infections: *Viticulture Notes*. Vol. 20 No. 4, July-August, 2005.
- Wrote Virginia Vineyard Report, 2005 Season. *Wines and Vines*.
- Final revision of manuscript for publication of MS thesis: *Evidence of Biological Soil Factors Associated with Grape Replant Disorder in Pennsylvania*.

Extension & Field Work:

- Responded to over 115 inquiries about vineyard establishment by providing basic grape growing and site selection information or to identify common diseases and pests of grapevines and recommend control strategies.
- Conducted 10 independent on-site visits and 3 co-visits with county agents to advise on vineyard development or problem-solving.
- Reviewed soil reports and advised on fertilizer rate applications for 15 vineyard sites.
- Reviewed and advised on 3 vineyard site evaluation reports for county extension agents.
- Provided logistical assistance for: i) Cooperative Extension in-service viticulture shortcourse, 11-12 August 2005; ii) NE-1020 national grape variety evaluation meeting, 2-3 November 2005 and iii) AHS open house field day (25 August 2005).
- Maintained email listings for *Grapes Wanted/Grapes for Sale* for 2005 harvest.

Research:

- Assisted with training system and variety comparison at AHS AREC and SPAREC by shoot positioning, harvest, data collection and transport of grapes.
- Recorded growth data for root pruning experiment with Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon at AHS AREC.

- Identified leafhoppers species from insect traps and maintained potted vines in commercial vineyard site for North American Grapevine Yellows research.
- Assisted with soil sampling and outlay of new research vineyard at AHS AREC.

#### Presentations/Workshops:

- July 7, Summer Vineyard Extension Update Series, Mt. Juliet Vineyards, VA, “Managing grape diseases with alternative fungicide materials – What to use and when”
- June 28, Summer Vineyard Extension Update Series, Savoy Lee Vineyards, VA, “Vineyard crop estimation and summer disease management updates”
- August 25, AHS AREC Open House, Winchester VA, “Characteristics of a successful vineyard site in Virginia - overview of the AHS AREC research vineyard”
- November 15, Vineyard Establishment and Operation Shortcourse, Winchester VA, “Vineyard site selection” & “Nutrient management of young grapevines”
- December 7, Dormant grapevine pruning workshop, AHS AREC, Winchester VA.
- December 13, Dormant grapevine pruning workshop, Ivy Creek Vineyards, Ivy VA.

#### Conferences and Shortcourses Attended:

- July 13-16, 2005. American Society for Enology and Viticulture – Eastern Meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- August 4, 2005. Virginia Vineyards Association Annual Summer Meeting, Barboursville, VA.
- August 11-12, 2005. Profitable Grape Production Shortcourse for Extension Agents, Winchester, VA.
- August 13-14, 2005. Advanced winemaking course. Linden Vineyards and Winery, Linden, VA.