The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute was formed as a result of the state’s evolving grape & wine industry.

Goals of the Institute include:
- Conduct research to evaluate cold-hardy grape varieties that can thrive in the Midwest
- Conduct enology research
- Assist with implementation of the Iowa Quality Wine Consortium (IQWC) - a quality-assurance stamp of approval program
- Establish an outreach program to the industry by training a team of specialists
- Partner with community colleges to develop job training programs specific to growing grapes and making wine

Research
- **Northern Grapes Project**
  - Sugar & acid profiles of cold hardy varieties from NE1020 plots continues.
  - With the Farm Bill still pending, so is the fate of additional years funding for the Northern Grapes Project. Investigators are preparing for two scenarios; wrapping up the current project and more preferably, planning for three additional years of research.

Outreach
- Meetings and conversations regarding the establishment of a MGWII teaching winery continue. IWGA board representatives met with the Dean of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and VP of Extension and Outreach. The administrators were very receptive to the industry proposal. They will take it into consideration and may help develop a strategy to make the proposal a reality.
- Jennie gave a presentation on the MGWII to 30-40 students and advisors associated with the ISU Food Science Club.
IQWC program support

- Five wine labels were awarded IQWC certification in December.
- The online database is nearing completion. If you would like to experiment with the program in the trial stages please contact Tammi. Your feedback is most welcome!

Lab activities

Chemical analysis services continue as usual and there’s still time to sign up with Steph for a free sanitation survey!

Expanding our knowledge

- Murli traveled to California to provide input at the VESTA Occupational Competencies Conference. While there he also visited a vintner’s facility in Lodi to investigate the results of *flash detent* treatment of red grapes. Flash detente is a thermal process coupled with vacuum and cooling to remove off-tasting components that may mask the fruit. It can also help in extracting more pigments and tannins. This new technology has great potential for enhancing the quality of Iowa red wines.

Teaching

The Chemical Engineering seniors Mike and Murli have been working with presented their final projects Dec. 10. Mike and Stephanie assisted with evaluations.

Coming up...

- We will be working with MKF Research to create an updated *Economic Impact of Iowa Wine and Vineyards* report. The [previous report](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine/content/institute-updates) covered data through 2008.
- ISU offices will be closed on January 20 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.
- Murli will be out of the country on a personal vacation Jan. 18-Feb. 27

*Best Wishes in the New Year!*

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IQWC program support

*Before* and *After*

Adoption of the new IQWC seal hinges on whether or not trademark status is awarded.

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