May Updates
2013

Institute Staff
Murli Dharmadhikari
Director
Tammi Martin
Office Manager
Stephanie Groves
Research Associate
Jennie Savits
Research Associate
Justin Weibel
Research Winemaker
Mike White
Field Specialist-Viticulture

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
2312 Food Sciences Building
Ames, IA 50011
Phone: (515) 294-3308
Fax: (515) 294-4362
www.extension.iastate.edu/wine

Helping support the state’s evolving grape and wine industry, because the potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.

Research

• La Crescent Varietal Research: Jennie wrapped up year 2 of panel research and is currently analyzing data
• Northern Grapes Project
  o Jennie and Stephanie visited the ISU Horticulture Farm to tag vines for this season’s collection of data for the sugars/acids research objective.
  o Staff assessed research wines sent from partners in South Dakota
• A GC/MS with olfactory port has been purchased which will allow MGWII to analyze the unique flavor and aroma profiles of cold hardy grapes. The units will be installed in June.

Outreach
• Justin visited wineries that requested winemaking guidance and advice
• Murli and Tammi met with members of the Minnesota wine industry who are interested in creating their

Research, Quality, Training
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
own wine quality assurance program

IQWC program support to Iowa Wine Growers Association
- After passing the sensory analysis test conducted on May 22, four people were invited to join the tasting panel pool.
- Work has begun on a new database system which will allow the Institute to better manage and organize IQ related information
- 16 samples underwent laboratory analysis
- A sensory panel was conducted to evaluate submissions that passed laboratory testing

Lab activities
- Stephanie continued implementation of the new microbial services program which includes on-site sanitation reviews with microbial testing
- Chemical analysis services continued as usual

Personnel
- Steph had a journal article, “Evaluation of hardboard manufacturing process wastewater as a feedstream for ethanol production” published in the Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology

Expanding our knowledge
- Jennie received a $1000 ASEV Eastern Section student scholarship to aid in her Master’s research

Teaching
- Murli was invited to accompany two ISU faculty members to assist with development of a student study abroad course in France and Italy

Coming up...
- Preparations have been finalized for “An Introduction to Wine Microorganisms: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” Tuesday, June 11th, 8 am - 4 pm. Registration is nearly full! Details HERE
- The next MGWII advisory board meeting will be on Friday, June 14th. Meetings are open to audit by all interested parties. Please contact us if you would like to attend.

FSHN student, Daniel Foss, gets hands-on experience and an hourly wage working as a MGWII lab assistant

Murli (R) with Nicolas Feuillatte (L) of Oliver Abgueguen Institute Oenologique de Champagne

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