

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

November Updates 2014

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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.

Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

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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

Northern Grapes Project (NGP)

- Berry samples from NE 1020 plots are undergoing sugar and acid profile analysis.
- SO₂ checks and additions were made to the research wines. They are finishing up cold settling in preparation for filtration and bottling in December.
- Paulina, with the help of Hercules (the new e-nose) and the GC-MS, is working on varietal characterization of white wines and the influence of selected enzyme additions on the aroma profile of La Crescent wine.

Lab activities

- 28 lab samples were submitted for analysis from 9 different

wineries, 1 vineyard and a home winemaker (5 of the submissions came from an out-of-state client).

IQWC program support

- Six of eight samples submitted for analysis in November were awarded Quality Wine certifications.
- Beginning with March 2015 submissions, the IQWC process will be completed online! If you would like to have a sneak peek or practice using the system, please contact [Tammi](#) for access.

Outreach

- Forty five people attended the workshop "Three important lab procedures every winery should know and use". The workshop was conducted in three different

locations across the state. A big **Thank you** to Brick Arch Winery in West Branch, Snus Hill Winery in Madrid, and Prairie Crossing Winery in Treynor for hosting. Those who attended were glad they did! Participants overwhelmingly reported an increased understanding of testing concepts and more confidence with hands-on procedures.



Murli presenting lab procedures at Brick Arch Winery.



Jennie assisting with instrumentation at Snus Hill Winery



Hands-on lab time at Prairie Crossing Winery

- The Institute of Food Technologist, Iowa chapter, held their November meeting at ISU. The Institute provided information and highlighted Iowa wines as part of the program.



Soldier Creek Winery and tasting room

- Jennie and Tammi were able to get in a quick trip to [Soldier Creek Winery](#) in Fort Dodge. Soldier Creek, owned and operated by the Secor family is one of the 'new kids on the block'. They just opened in July and appear to be off to a great start!



- Members of the Iowa Brewers Guild requested a meeting and paid us a visit. They are interested in receiving services comparable to those provided to the wine industry. We provided a tour and overview of Institute activities. Their requests are being considered.



Murli and Robert Noecker, Overland Park, KS, take a break from judging to pose for this photo at the Jefferson Cup Invitational

- Murli served as a judge for the 2014 Jefferson Cup Invitational Wine Competition held in Kansas City. Judges tasted about 125 wines from 25 states over the course of two days. Fireside Winery's 2011 Frontenac won a Medal of Merit. The full list of winners can be found [here](#).

Coming up...

- Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey to visit the Institute on December 11.
- VESTA meeting and Unified Symposium in Sacramento, CA. Jan. 23-30.
- IWGA Day at the Capital, Feb. 17
- IWGA Annual Conference and Meeting, Feb. 27-28
- March 5-7, Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show
- March 17-19, Northern Grapes Project PAC Meeting & Symposium, and Eastern Wine Exposition
- Next advisory board meeting TBD – March/April, 2015