Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

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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.

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

September Updates 2014

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Research
Northern Grapes Project (NGP)
• Even though we’re still awaiting the official grant award renewal announcement, the grapes have been harvested and work has begun!

Destemming La Crescent grapes for skin contact trials
Unloading lugs of La Crescent – these grapes are a NGP matching funds donation from Tassel Ridge Winery.
Racking the lots into three control groups
Harvest samples were collected at the Horticulture Research Station for continued NGP data collection of sugars and acids contents in La Crescent, Frontenac Gris, Marquette, St. Croix, and Frontenac. Samples of these varieties are collected by several participating states that have the NE1020 viticulture blocks. Samples are sent to the wine lab and analyzed by HPLC.

Fireside Winery generously donated La Crescent juice in support of studies that Paulina is conducting regarding the influence of enzymes addition on enhancing wine flavor by releasing bonded terpenes.

**Lab activities**
- The wine lab received 22 sample submissions for various analyses.
- Meet Hercules (below) – our recent state of the art addition to the research lab. This “electronic nose” will greatly expand our aroma and flavor research capabilities.

**IQWC program support**
- Thirteen samples were submitted and analyzed in August resulting in ten quality certifications.

**Outreach**
- Murli, Mike and Emily Saveraid, Iowa Wine Growers Association Marketing Director, provided an exhibit at the Western Iowa Wine Festival at River Park in Council Bluffs Sept. 27th. In addition to a booth highlighting MGWII and IWGA assistance programs, Mike and Emily served as maters of ceremony for the grape stomp, a highlight of the festival. The 2000+ people who attended the festival enjoyed wines of western Iowa, food, and music in a pretty outdoor setting.

- Murli and Mike visited John Scanlan at Bella Terre near Glenwood Iowa, to review his business plan for starting a winery. Belle Terre has a vineyard and Tuscan style building which serve their successful wedding business. The winery would complement the existing business and increase wine tourism in western Iowa.

**Staff**
- Happy Birthday to us. MGWII turned seven on September 26. On the same day, our 500th wine lab report was sent out to a client!
• Join us in welcoming Dr. Diana Cochran to Iowa State University! Diana is the new Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture. Her focus is fruit crop production and management as well as wine grape science. Mike has been introducing Diana to many of our Iowa vineyards so some of you may have already met her. We look forward to partnering with Dr. Cochran on the advancement of wine grape research.

Coming up…
• Murli will be out of the office October 13-23 participating in Ron and Linda Mark’s Spain and Portugal wine tour.
• Tammi will be attending the Iowa Tourism Conference October 22-24.