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The National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI) is an industry-driven partnership with academic and government representatives, designed to focus emphasis on research and extension as a means to strengthen the competitiveness of America's grape and grape product industries.

Message from Jean-Mari Peltier, NGWI President

With the grape harvest in full-swing, I want to take a brief moment to share some insight and information about NGWI activities during the 2009 summer.

Of particular note was the recent publication of a supplement to the Journal of Nutrition of the abstracts presented at the Grape and Health Workshop. The Journal of Nutrition is one of the most respected peer-reviewed research journals among nutritionists, scientists, the medical community and the media. First published in 1928, the Journal was the first scientific journal created solely for the publication of nutrition research. Having the Grape Health Workshop featured in the Journal adds great prestige to the efforts and reputation of the NGWI and its members.

The supplement, found in the September edition of the Journal, highlights the key presentations made by the researchers and advisory members who gathered to present and discuss research on the links between consumption of grapes and grape products, diet and health and disease prevention. Findings covered research conducted in the areas of grapes and grape products on cardiovascular, cancer, cognitive function/brain health, immune function, diabetes/glycemic response, dental health and bioavailability. The NGWI has contacted over 3,000 media outlets, trade journals and websites with information about the supplement to broaden the understanding of the many health benefits of consuming grapes and grape products.

The Consumer Insights Committee, which spearheaded the workshop, formed a Technical Working Group of to provide in-depth analysis and recommendations for moving forward on efforts in the area of joint research on grapes and health. The Working Group recommended and the NGWI Board of Directors approved a plan for a two-pronged approach on grapes and health research: conduct an extensive epidemiological data study, as well as a pilot human clinical study in the area on

Industry News

Cliff Ohmart, sustainable winegrowing director for the Lodi Winegrape Commission (LWC) as well as a member of the NGWI board of directors, announced his resignation from the LWC to accept a new job with SureHarvest. He will be the vice president of professional services. NGWI greatly appreciates Cliff's participation on the board and his contributions.

Did you know?

When utilizing PubMed, a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, keying in the following search terms results in:

Grapes and Health – 293 publications

Raisins and Health – 198 publications

Wine and Health – 1338 publications

Wine – 9779 publications

Red Wine – 1686 publications

Resveratrol and Health – 345 publications

Resveratrol – 2804 publications

See more at:
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed

Upcoming NGWI Board Meetings

- **Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** (via conference call)

- **Monday, January 25, 2010 at 12:00 noon at the University of California, Davis** (The day before the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium. More details will be available shortly.)

cognition. The epidemiological data study is an important first research step as it will provide actionable information in the near term including results that identify other areas for future research studies as well as be promoted over time to create a sustained flow of positive publicity. A successful human study in the area of cognition would be extremely newsworthy. Additionally, it would provide important “proof of concept” data which is key to securing larger grants from other funding bodies.

Currently, the Technical Working Group is working on remaining questions about the epidemiological study, including appropriate study design, parameters and endpoints. It will also research key players in the brain health/cognition area.

2009 Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) Update

NGWI continues to monitor the final approval process of the SCRI applications. It appears likely that funding will be approved for three projects of note. NGWI's eXtension “community of practice” project (Dr. Eric Stafne – Oklahoma) will receive over \$420,000 and will provide an important platform for extension and outreach for grape research which is an NGWI priority. In addition, NGWI strongly supported a Vine Mealybug/Leaf Roll Virus project (Dr. Kent Daane - UC Berkeley) and a cold climate grapes project (Dr. Tim Martinson - Cornell). Both are expected to receive funding. NGWI is awaiting the analysis of two other key NGWI projects being reviewed in order to evaluate next steps: Irrigation Management and Mechanization and Sensor Technology. The SCRI funds must be allocated before the end of the fiscal year which is September 30th, which makes the lack of information this late in the game surprising.

USDA Research Priorities & New Director Named at NIFA

With the Obama Administration settling in to its new surroundings, NGWI President Peltier met recently with USDA officials including Under Secretary Rajiv Shah's chief of staff, Maura O'Neill. According to O'Neill, Dr. Shah hopes to double the current funding of competitive grants under the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). He has five priorities for the new funding: bio-energy, climate change, international food security, food safety and child nutrition focusing on child obesity.

Last week, President Obama tapped Dr. Roger N. Beachy, of the Danforth Plant Science Center, to become the first director of NIFA. Beachy was the founding president of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, a non-profit research center based in St. Louis, MO. Under his leadership, the Center has attracted more than \$75 million in research grants, established an endowment of \$100 million and conducted ground-breaking research on the development of biofuels and plants that can grow in dry climates.

Beachy's new mission is to change the way the government approaches agricultural research. He is expected to oversee research to develop new and useful products for plants and animals, improve food safety, develop biofuels, combat obesity, and strengthen national security by improving the subsistence of

farmers in developing nations. As NIFA Director, Dr. Beachy will be advised by a policy council and three directors who will be direct reports and consist of a bio-energy & climate change director, a health, nutrition and food safety director and a plant and animal production director. Each of these directors will have an executive council which will consist of USDA teams from NRCS, ARS, NASS, ERS, the Farm Services Agency and others. Given that this is a major overhaul of the way USDA will be approaching research – and the funding of research – NGWI will be working closely with NIFA on the restructure.

Climate Change & Specialty Crops

While prospects for passage of federal climate change legislation are murky, NGWI has been working with other specialty crops to provide information and edit a new report by Intertox on the production costs associated with restrictions on carbon emissions. The report looks at the anticipated cost increases at the field level for fuel, fertilizer, energy and pesticides but it currently doesn't address potentially larger cost increases anticipated post-harvest. For example, product cooling, processing and transportation costs are expected to rise significantly. Consideration is being given to additional research to assess those costs to provide a more complete view of the impacts. Meanwhile, leaders representing perennial crops are requesting that the USDA fill in data gaps about the ability of vines and trees to sequester carbon. Jean-Mari Peltier outlined the grape industry's need for data on optimizing carbon sequestration in vineyards at an August field hearing of the Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee held in Sacramento. She said, "Grapes are grown in 44 states, under a wide range of climates, soil types, rootstocks and cultural practices, all of which may have an impact on carbon storage."

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