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UPCOMING EVENTS

- NGWI Board of Directors will meet via conference call on March 20. NGWI's spring Board meeting will be held on April 28 in Beltsville, Maryland, and will feature presentations from key agency representatives.
- The Washington winery workshop will be held on April 22 on the WSU Tri-Cities campus in Richland.

RECENT NGWI ACTIVITIES

Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum – NGWI recently spoke at the 12th Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum in Kearney, Nebraska March 5 -7. This annual conference is organized by the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program in cooperation with the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association. For the

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.

USDA Announces Nearly \$48 Million Research Fund Available

The USDA's Specialty Crop Research Initiative has announced that \$47.3 million in research funds are now available to help solve critical issues facing the specialty crops industry. To receive funds, projects must address at least one of five focus areas: 1) research in plant breeding, genetics and genomics to improve crop characteristics; 2) efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases; 3) efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity and profitability; 4) new innovations and technology that delay or inhibit ripening; and, 5) methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops. This marks a \$20 million increase from 2008 in available funds through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill. NGWI has reviewed the RFP and is working with key researchers to submit proposals on or before the April 15, 2009 due date.

More from the USDA

Tom Bewick, CSREES, attended NGWI's January meeting to provide a better understanding of the Specialty Crops Research Initiative. Bewick noted that the USDA is very aware of the grape industry's important efforts and contributions. He also spoke about the SCRI application process and the importance of meeting deadlines and submitting applications through grants.gov. Key elements of SCRI include integrated (only research and extension funding authorized) and sustainability (which is the foundation of the program). Applications must document how a holistic approach to sustainability is achieved. In addition, Bewick stressed the importance of NGWI working closely with researchers so they have a full understanding of the grant proposal and also added that CSREES wants the SCRI program to be multi-functional, trans-disciplinary and multi-

last several years, this educational program has attracted upwards of 350 participants.

Successful Aroma

Symposiums – An analysis of the origins of wine flavor and the conversion of grape components to wine aromas was held at the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium in January. Speakers covered the effects of viticultural practices on flavor, including water deficit and crop loads on wine qualities, effects of ripening and composition on sensory attributes, vine microclimate effects on wine flavor and influence of leaf removal on winegrape quality.

A similar symposium was also held at the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers 2009 Annual Meeting and Trade Show/Convention.

NGWI Grape Health Workshop

– Researchers from across the nation gathered in San Francisco in December to discuss the impact of grapes and grape products on cardiovascular, cancer, cognitive function/brain health, immune function, diabetes/glycemic response, anti-microbial/anti-adhesion and bioavailability. Mediated by Dr. John Pezutto of the University of Hawaii, the research findings discussed at the workshop will be published in the Journal of Nutrition this summer, so stay tuned.

state. Each grant requires a match of 100% of funding from non-federal sources.

On March 13th, NGWI President Jean-Mari Peltier spoke at the National Agriculture Research, Education, Extension and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE) Specialty Crop listening session, outlining the experience of the U.S. grape industry as USDA has implemented several programs important to specialty crops. Also speaking at that session was Dr. Bewick, who announced that as a result of the omnibus appropriations bill, the USDA will now allow the unrecovered indirect costs (including those at Land Grant Universities) to be counted toward the non-federal match. Based on the notices of intent to file, Bewick has estimated there will be 400 applications this year. Of these, about 70 will be CAP and about 30 planning grants, with the remainder standard research and extension grants.

In addition, the *Washington Post* recently reported the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has warned that the grants.gov system, through which grant applicants must file, is seriously impacted by the stimulus package. There are now more than 1,000 competitive grants from 22 agencies using the system. To quote OMB Director Peter Orszag, agency heads need to plan "for a possible meltdown of the government's online grant making portal." Orszag has ordered all agencies to make alternative plans in case grants.gov can't handle the load, according to the *Washington Post*.

Sustainable Management of Winery Water & Associated Energy Workshop

Funded by the New York Wines & Grape Foundation, the Sustainable Management of Winery Water & Associated Energy workshop took place earlier this month. With the outreach of this training program also an NGWI priority, this important workshop was attended by approximately 40 individuals with speakers including: Bob Chrobak and Sharon Melmon from Kennedy-Jenks, Tim Martinson and Chris Gerling from Cornell University, and engineer Bill Smith.

Presenters covered areas ranging from basic winery wastewater treatment systems to the process of evaluating winery operations for reducing waste generation, water use and the energy associated with moving water and wine around. Two interactive sessions took place, where participants discussed what options they might want to implement and what steps (equipment, personnel and procedures) they would need in place in order to implement the water-saving ideas. The take-home message was that many of the changes to generate less waste from cleaning and sanitizing have to do with coming up with standard operating procedures for managing the processes in the winery.

Following the session, a group of Finger Lakes winery owners and "Winery Task Force" members met with Dep. Commissioner Jackie Moody-Czub, her assistant and Jeff Teneyck (Statewide AEM program) to discuss options to streamline (or exempt small wineries from) wastewater permitting by the DEC.

NGWI Elects Officers

NGWI elected officers at their annual meeting in Sacramento. Kathleen Nave, President of the California Table Grape Commission was elected Chair; John Martini of Anthony Road Vineyards in New York as Vice Chair; Vicky Scharlau, Executive Director of the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers as Secretary/Treasurer; and Mary Wagner, Chief Technology Officer of Mars Botanical in Maryland holds the position of Past Chair. Also elected at the January board meeting was Chair of the Research Committee. Nick Dokoozlian, VP of Viticulture for E. & J. Gallo Winery, who will be responsible for coordination of research priorities for all NGWI's Theme Committees.

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