

Grape Association Calls For More Growers

LENHARTSVILLE (Berks Co.) — Twenty-five years ago, a group of grape growers along the shores of Lake Erie fought to have the Pennsylvania Limited Wineries Act passed so they would have a market in the state for their grapes — especially wine grape varieties. The new law allowed for the establishment of Pennsylvania wineries that could sell directly to the public. Previously, wineries could only sell through the Pennsylvania State Store System, and only then if they could make very large volumes of wine.

Today that has all changed. There are now about 50 wineries in the state and 400 grape growers producing and selling 400,000 gallons of Pennsylvania wines annually; a figure that's expected to increase rapidly.

With the ever increasing acceptance and critical acclaim of Pennsylvania wines, many of the wineries are geared to expand production. Their future, however, depends on whether or not the grape supply can keep pace as Pennsylvania limited wineries, by law, can only use Pennsylvania grapes. Because currently there are not enough Pennsylvania grown grapes to meet this expand-

ing need, the Pennsylvania Wine Association is seeking special legislation to allow them to go outside the state for additional wine grape tonnage — especially after the recent bad winter that had an adverse effect on grapevines.

Based on this situation, an organization of wine grape growers in the southeastern corner of the state known as SEGA (Southeast

HAGERSTOWN, MD. — Lancaster PA DHIA recently announced they would start operating their own DHI Milk Laboratory in Lancaster County and discontinue sending their samples to the Mid-East DHIC Lab in Hagerstown, MD, effective in October.

Since Lancaster started testing with Mid-East in November 1992, Lancaster delivered the samples to the Mid-East lab on Monday,

Grape Association) is trying to encourage more Pennsylvania farmers to consider putting in grape acreage. Its president, Eric Miller, who also owns Chaddsford Winery, said recently, "We are organizing more vineyard workshops to encourage new interest in wine grape growing. It offers many farmers an attractive additional source of income."

Depending upon the variety of

Mid-East DHIC Report

Wednesday and Friday evenings each week. The samples were then analyzed for fat, protein and somatic cells at Mid-East and the results electronically transmitted to the DRPC @ Raleigh the next workday, usually by 2:00 P.M. If Raleigh had the sample results by 2:00 PM, they would batch calculate the data and the resulting reports were in the mail the same day.

grapes grown, wineries are paying between \$400 to \$1800 per ton. Typical yields range from 2 tons per acre to 6 tons per acre, depending on the type of grapes.

SEGA's next workshop meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 9th at Naylor Vineyards in Stewartstown from noon until 5:00 p.m. Dr. Carl Haeseler, retired grape expert from Penn State, will

present information on vineyard equipment, grape spray programs, trellising, and pruning.

To register for the meeting, send \$15.00 for members, \$20.00 for non-members to SEGA MEETING, 813 OLD ROUTE 22, LENHARTSVILLE, PA 19534. Or call Tanya Laudadio at (215) 756-4366. Directions to Naylor Vineyards will be given to those signing up for the workshop.

The only way Lancaster will receive faster service according to Lancaster DHIA Manager, Jay Mylin, is being able to test the milk samples five days per week rather than delivering the samples to Mid-East three days per week as Lancaster has done.

Mid-East DHIC and Lancaster DHIA will continue to work closely in many areas such as DHI Supervisor training

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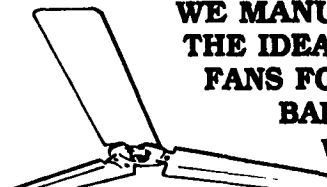
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