

# Grape Genetics Research Center In Line For \$2.7 Million

GENEVA, N.Y. — Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford) announced \$2.7 million in funding for the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Research Center at a press conference at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station Wednesday.

The funding would be used to design and build a new federal research facility for USDA scientists to work with Cornell University researchers in establishing and coordinating a national, concentrated grape program that maximizes the impact of grape research.

"These funds will establish the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics

Center as the anchor tenant in the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park at Geneva," said James E. Hunter, director of the Experiment Station. "Having this facility located at the park will result in the construction of the park's second building and pave the way for further development."

Hunter praised Congressmen Sherwood Boehlert, James Walsh, Maurice Hinchey, and State Senator Mike Nozzolio as key members of the New York delegation who were instrumental in making this award possible. "I congratulate them for their vision that investments in science

and technology are important drivers of the upstate New York economy," said Hunter.

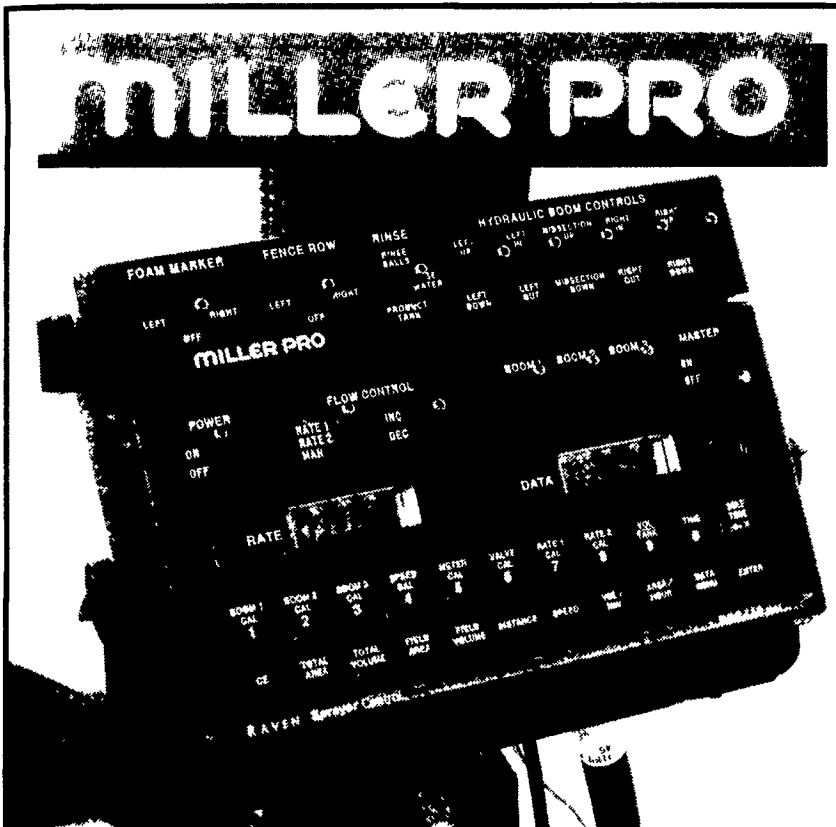
"The tremendous opportunity I've been given to serve this district for the last 21 years also provides New York State the seniority in Washington needed to bring this funding home," Boehlert said. "I'm proud of the efforts Cornell has put forward to improve the agriculture industry. This funding will go a long way toward energizing the grape industry here in New York which will reap immeasurable benefits for our local grape growers."

The funding was part of Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations spending bill passed by the House of Representatives on Monday. In addition to the \$2.7 million in funding for the Cornell Grape Genetics Research Center, the bill included \$3.55 million in funding for other area projects. The Senate is expected to pass the bill early next year.

## Setting The Pace



GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Clifford Hawbaker, right, receives a Pacesetter Award from the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders at their annual conference Thursday, presented by David McCorkle, vice president. Hawbaker and his wife Maggie operate a progressive 410-cow dairy near Chambersburg. He is recognized as being the "creative engine" in the formation of the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania in 1994. More from the conference is scheduled in next week's issue. Photo by Dave Lefever



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## Stink Bug: A Dangerous Nuisance

Karen Bernhard  
Penn State Cooperative  
Extension  
Lehigh County

Oh, the joys of getting out the Christmas decorations once again! Happy memories of Christmases past and memories of times gone by. Glitter and color and ribbons and ornaments and way down there on the bottom of the box ... *stink bugs?*

The brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), has become established in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. No one knows exactly how or when, but it probably came as a "hitchhiker" in packaging materials of some commodity imported from its home in Asia. It may have arrived first in the Allentown area a few years before 1996. It invades homes in the fall, buzzing around lights and windows and getting into storage areas and household furnishings. When injured or disturbed, it gives off an unpleasant odor. More importantly, it may prove to be a serious threat to fruits and vegetables.

Lehigh County Cooperative Extension is cooperating with the USDA in studying this insect. We know that it is spreading beyond the Lehigh Valley,

and believe it may have reached the central Pennsylvania area.

We'd like to know if residents in the Lancaster area are seeing it. If you think you are getting these insects in your home, please save a few specimens to confirm the identification (drop them into a small jar of rubbing alcohol), and e-mail Karen Bernhard at [kmb13@psu.edu](mailto:kmb13@psu.edu). If you prefer, write to Lehigh County Cooperative Extension, Lehigh County Agricultural Center, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104 or phone (610) 391-9840.

Several species of insects, including a few of our native stink bugs, may enter homes in the fall. Here's how to tell if you have the bug we are looking for:

- The overall shape is like a shield.
- It is 1/2 to 3/4 inches long, and almost that wide.
- It has a brown or grayish, mottled coloring.
- The antennae have lighter colored "bands" where the segments attach together.

Other species of insects are sometimes confused with this one. Boxelder bugs are black and red. Western conifer seed bugs are brown, but much longer than wide, and do not have the white-bands on their antennae.

Brown marmorated stink

bugs cause both economic and nuisance problems. They cause damage as they suck plant juices during the summer. They attack peaches, apples, Asian pears, snap beans, and other cultivated fruits and vegetables. Among ornamental plants, they especially like paulownia (princess tree), catalpa, maples, butterfly bushes, and almost anything with fruit.

Nuisance problems arise when temperatures drop in the fall and the bugs start seeking protected places to overwinter. The adults fly to nearby homes and buildings, congregate on the outside, and attempt to squeeze into crevices, window frames, air conditioners, etc. Most remain hidden until spring, when they go outdoors to mate and lay eggs. This overwintering behavior contributes to them being easily spread because some of the bugs seek shelter in vehicles and are carried to other locations.

Unfortunately, some make their way inside the home. The best way to keep stink bugs out of structures is to tighten up the building so they can't enter. Repair cracks and crevices and make sure window air conditioners are tight. Repair all exterior cracks and openings with caulking or some other suitable material.

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