Iowa’s Grape and Wine Industry

Where are we going?

Dr. Paul Tabor
Tabor Home Vineyards and Winery
Important Factors in the Growth of Iowa Grape and Wine Industry – an outline

State and Regional Associations

Iowa Grape Growers Association

- Newsletter, conferences, networking for growers, website (www.iowagrapegrowers.org) obtains grants
- Lobbies state government

Regional

- Western Iowa Growers Association
- Central Iowa Growers group
- Miss. Valley Grape Growers Association
- SE Iowa Growers group
Important Factors in the Growth of Iowa Grape and Wine Industry – an outline

Technical Assistance for Growers

- Eli Bergmeier, Golden Hills RC&D
  Eli.Bergmeier@goldenhillsrcd.org
- Mike White, ISU Extension
  mlwhite@iastate.edu
- ISU Horticulture:
  - Dr. Paul Domoto
    domoto@iastate.edu
  - Dr. Gail Nonnecke
    nonnecke@iastate.edu
- Website: http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/
- Other ISU faculty
- IDALS: Mike Bevins
  mike.bevins@idals.state.ia.us
Important Factors (cont.)

Iowa Wine and Grape Development Commission

- Recommends use of State funds
- Provides strategic plan for growth of the industry
- Direct communication with IDALS
  - Specialty crop grants
  - Information clearing

NICC and the Vesta program

- NSF-supported tri-state training program for viticulture and enology
Important Factors (cont.)

🌟 Technical Assistance for Winemakers

- SMSU courses in IA and NE
  - Winemaking 101 and 102
- SUI seminars/courses
- NICC Vesta program
- MGGA, NWGA, IWGA Seminars
Important Factors (cont.)

**Legislation**

- 2001 IWGDC established, funding formula for $75K per yr.
- 2002 vineyards/wineries assessed agricultural for property taxes
- 2003 revise funding formula
- 2003 establish Class B and C Native permits
  - allowing gift shops to sell IA wines
  - By the glass sales at wineries
- 2004 single event permit
Important Factors (cont.)

**Iowa Wine and Beer Promotion Board**
- Wine industry’s link to Iowa tourism office
  - Taste of Iowa
  - Group advertising
  - Leads
- Wholesale tax from native wineries goes to IWBPB for promotion
Important Factors (cont.)

Research and Development

- ISU research projects on grape varieties – wine and grape
- ISU disease management research projects
- SARE producer research projects
  - In 2002 5 of 7 SARE grants that were awarded to Iowa involved grape production.
- Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area grants
- Leopold Center
- RC&D offices can help with Rural Development grants
  - Winery Incubator Project
  - Winemaking 101 and 102
Important Factors (cont.)

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  - Grape Expectations

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Important Factors (cont.)

**WineAmerica – National Association for wineries**


- Lobby US Congress to aid wineries
  - Non-restricted interstate wine orders
  - Specialty crop funding

- Label approval
State Survey Results 2002

- 90 tons wine grapes harvested
- 200-250 acres of grapes planted (2003 IDALS / Golden Hills RC&D survey; Mike White has other information not on the survey that projects 400 acres).
- Value of Iowa grape harvest = $81,000
- Number of Iowa growers = 200 (again Mike White says number could be 400 growers).
- 70,000 gallons of wine produced by 19 wineries
- Value of wine produced: $3,529,411.