



LIVE Newsletter for Winter of 2008

2008 Inspections and Reporting:

Congratulations everyone on getting through the 2008 growing season intact. It was a tough one with the weather, late harvest, and Thanksgiving keeping everyone busy. This year's inspections were carried out by two contracted third-parties: Agro Ecology Northwest (Jude Hobbs and Rebecca Sweet) and Apple Leaf (Rob Koch). Jude, Rebecca, and Rob did a fantastic job helping members with questions regarding the new format of our Checklist. I will address that in a moment. For now, let's be thankful that it's out of the way and look forward to receiving your determination in mid- to late-January. There are almost 200 members now, so it may take me a bit longer this year to draw up the certificates and endorsements. Your patience is appreciated.

In January, a LIVE sub-committee dedicated to the Checklist will meet to discuss revisions, corrections, and compliance issues related to the LIVE reporting format. We will be pouring over the forms with a fine toothed comb to make your reporting easier than it has been in the past, and make the new format much more user-friendly. We are hoping to have the Checklist available as a web-based tool for 2009. We are currently working on this. More about this in a moment...

2009 Program Improvements:

As our program grows (as it is very quickly doing so) we are finding out what is working and what is not. We are also discovering what areas need immediate improvements and are working toward that end currently. Here is a list of what is and will be done to make LIVE a stronger program and make your lives a little easier:

- **New website:** The current LIVE website has verily served the needs of the membership until recently, but of course as technology progresses and new options are made available, we should pursue them if in fact it helps us along. To that end, the LIVE board has approved funding for a website re-design that is in its beginning stages. This new website will be based on a technology that will, if all goes as planned, allow LIVE members and administration to do the following:
 - Fill out the checklist in a web-based format (as opposed to an Excel based solution, which has given some members a hard time)
 - Upload your other reporting forms, such as you pesticide, fertilizer, and irrigation forms, as well as any Salmon-Safe forms you may need to submit. We do not have the funding currently to create web-based versions of these forms, nor is it feasible at this moment based on human resources, but this solution should be elegant enough for the foreseeable future.
 - Create a member profile that will allow you to see what you need to report, what you have reported, and any other pertinent information we have the means to import for you
 - Allow the Program Manager (me) to set up and manage the inspections process much more easily with our contracted inspectors. Also the new format will allow the inspectors to see their assignments and manage them much more efficiently.



- The new website will arrange the LIVE forms in a more organized way, and display them based on the region you are in. For instance, if you log in as a member in Walla Walla, you will see the Walla Walla pesticide list. Of course you will have access to all the documents we publish, but in your member area you will be presented with a set of forms based on your region.
- It will also have an area dedicated to published articles from the industry and extension. As it is part of LIVE's mission to educate, this will go a long way toward providing a portal for the latest in research.
- There are a few other goodies that we are planning, but we will leave these for the unveiling of the new website at the annual meeting in the spring.

Because we will be focusing on the development of this site over the next 4 months, we will be doing minimal upkeep to the current website. I will of course update the list of certified members in January, and add any important news or documents.

- Upgraded internal information systems: Over the past 6 months, LIVE has been working with a database and software engineer based out of Portland to upgrade its internal systems. As a result, we will now be able to better manage our growing membership. The upgrades include (among other things) a new billing module (yay!), the ability to create a membership statistics report based on region instantaneously (helpful when writing grants and presenting our program to the public), and a completely new winery database with a traceability system that complies with IOBC and Oregon Certified Sustainable Wine requirements.
- Winery certification program: As you all know by now, LIVE has launched the pilot group for its winery certification. We currently have 17 wineries enrolled that total almost 500,000 cases production! According to our best estimates, that is about 30% of the total production of wine in Oregon! These pilot members are being inspected as we speak and the complete list of LIVE certified wineries should be available by February. The current winery certification standards are of course available through request and will be published on the new website. The 2008 pilot group is now closed for applications, but 2009 applications will be available in January. Participation in the LIVE Winery Certification in conjunction with the LIVE Vineyard Certification will enable you to participate in the Oregon Certified Sustainable Wine (OCSW) program that is being administered by the Oregon Wine Board.
- New certificate design: When you receive your certificates for 2008, you will notice they look much different than in the past. The design firm that created our recruitment brochure and PowerPoint tasting room presentation has re-imagined what our certificates would look like. The goal of this revision was complying with Oregon Certified Sustainable Wine standards and giving them an eye-catching design.
- 2009 Reporting Deadline: Over the winter we will examine whether a later reporting deadline would be appropriate. One way or the other, however, we will be taking a hard-line in 2009 with regards to sanctions for late reporting. This announcement will be repeated throughout the year.

There are other improvements planned, but the above list is those that will affect the membership directly.



Some helpful links:

University Research Programs:

Oregon State University - <http://wine.oregonstate.edu>

University of Washington - <http://winegrapes.wsu.edu>

Cornell University - <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/faculty/henick/>

UC Davis - <http://wineserver.ucdavis.edu>

Fresno State - <http://cati.csufresno.edu/verc/>

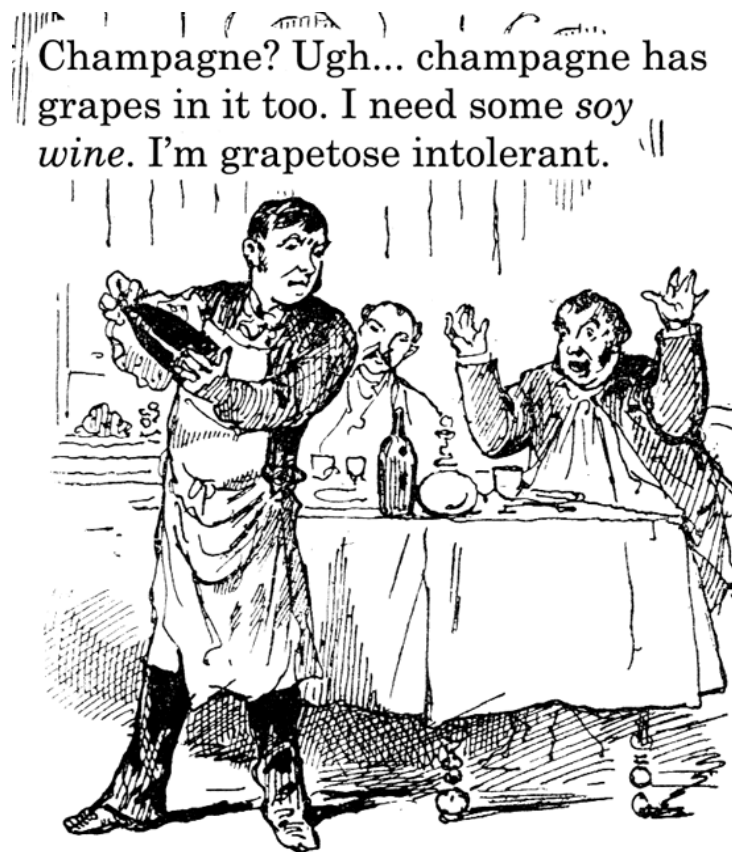
Sustainable Viticulture in Washington:

Vinea - <http://www.vineatrust.com>

Vinewise - <http://www.vinewise.org>

And of Course:

LIVE – <http://www.liveinc.org>



Happy Holidays Everyone!