

PRESS RELEASE: August 7, 2012

Contacts: Richard Lamoy, 518-643-0006, richl@charter.net; NNYADP Co-Chair Joe Giroux, days: 518-565-4730

NNY Cold-Hardy Grape Entrepreneur Receives 3rd Sustainable Agriculture Grant

Morrisonville, NY – Grape grower and winemaker Richard Lamoy has received his third Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) grant in support of innovative cold-hardy grape research at his Hid-In-Pines Vineyard, Morrisonville, NY.

Lamoy is an entrepreneur who has converted his volunteerism with the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program-funded grape research trials at the Cornell University Willsboro Research Farm into his own successful vineyard and winery business. He established his vineyard in 2006. He received his first NESARE grant to conduct grapevine training trials research at his 3-acre vineyard in 2009.

“I am using techniques learned through the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program trials at Willsboro and sharing some I have developed to help strengthen Northern New York’s grape and wine industry,” Lamoy says.

“We are pleased to see that the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program seed money that started the cold-hardy grape trials at Willsboro has paid off in the entrepreneurial development of new research and practical on-farm results,” says NNYADP Co-Chair Joseph Giroux.

“Richard Lamoy and the other farmers who pay attention to the research being conducted here and extrapolate what they need to enhance their own businesses are helping to grow this region’s agricultural industry. Richard’s work promises to benefit the entire Northern New York region,” Giroux adds.

The results of Lamoy’s first trials showed the potential for sizable (40-67 percent) improvement in grape yield and quality in a year 200 growing degree days (GDD) short of the NNY region’s usual 2400 GDD.

“The early trial data indicated that matching the type of training system to the habit and vigor of specific varieties can indeed influence grape yield, quality and a higher return of farm income,” Lamoy says.

Lamoy is evaluating four types of training systems with two red and two white grape varieties with one each of a lower vigor and one each of a higher vigor vine growth habit.

Lamoy’s technical advisors include Willsboro Farm Manager Michael Davis, and a cadre of Cornell University viticulture and enology specialists, including Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Northeast NY Commercial Fruit Program Specialist Kevin Lungerman.

The results of Lamoy’s early research, along with data from the Willsboro Farm trials are online in the Horticulture section of the NNYADP website at www.nnyagdev.org. The trials at the Willsboro Farm have also received support from the New York Farm Viability Institute. #