

Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission's PESP Strategy

Describe your Organization's Five-Year Goals Related to Pesticide Risk Reduction

Winegrape growers have many important issues to address besides pesticide risk to be successful sustainable winegrape growers. As a result, the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission (LWWC) has developed a comprehensive sustainable winegrowing program for its grower members to help them move along the sustainable farming continuum achieving continual improvement. This program is being implemented through 4 components:

1. grower outreach and education,
2. field implementation,
3. grower self-assessment and
4. a third-party certified sustainable winegrowing program (see past PESP strategies for goals and successes for each component).

All four components address pesticide risk. However, because our overarching goal is improving on all aspects of sustainable farming, we do not develop separate pesticide risk reduction goals. Rather, we develop goals are based on participation in various aspects of our sustainable winegrowing program.

The one exception is pesticide use to combat vine mealybug, which is a pest new to the Lodi region. Standard University-recommended management protocols involve use of pesticides that greatly increase pesticide risk in Lodi vineyards when compared to the pesticide risk in pest management programs prior to its introduction. We therefore have set a goal that addresses pesticide risk related to vine mealybug management.

Five-Year Goals related to pesticide risk reduction:

1. Growers who manage three quarters of the acres in the Lodi region (75,000 acres) are using the Pesticide Environmental Assessment System (PEAS) developed for Lodi vineyards to choose the pesticides to use in their pest management programs.
2. Develop an IPM program for vine mealybug, in cooperation with the University of California, which results in a total of less than 50 PEAS units per acre for all the pesticides used in the vineyard for the year. The current University-recommended protocol for the management of vine mealybug results in up to 650 PEAS impact units per acre for all pesticides used during the year.
3. Implement the IPM program in Lodi vineyards through grower education, outreach and demonstration.

Five-Year goals related to sustainable winegrowing:

1. Growers who manage three quarters of the acres in the Lodi region having assessed their vineyard practices using the Lodi Winegrower's Workbook 2nd edition.
2. Have 15% of the vineyard acres in the region certified under the Lodi Rules for Sustainable Winegrowing certification program. These will mean that the annual number of PEAS impact units for all the pesticides used during the year on 15,000 vineyard acres will be less than 50 per acre.

What do you envision doing (broadly) to try to resolve your major issues?

Practical, acceptable solutions are available for sustainability issues facing Lodi growers. They are incorporated in the *Lodi Rules for Sustainable Winegrowing* certification program and the *Lodi Winegrower's Workbook* 2nd Edition. Therefore we will resolve our major issues by increasing grower participation in the Lodi Rules certification program as well as implementing the self assessment program using the new edition of the *Lodi Winegrower's Workbook* which will be available in early 2008.

Goal 1 and Tactics

By January 2009 200 growers will have assessed their farming practices using the *Lodi Winegrower's Workbook* 2nd Edition and written an action plan to improve one or more of these practices.

This will be accomplished through LWWC staff convening small (5- 15 growers) workshops hosted by growers. These grower hosts will hold the workshop at their home or shop and invite their neighbors to attend. Success in achieving the goal will be measured through recording workshop attendance. The level of implementation of sustainable farming practices used by Lodi growers will be measured by collecting and summarizing the self assessments from growers willing to share them. Past experience with the first edition of the workbook gives us confidence that over 90% of the attendees will share their assessments.

Goal 2 and Tactics

By January 2009 8% (8,000 acres) of Lodi vineyard acres will be certified under the Lodi Rules for Sustainable Winegrowing program.

LWWC grower members will be educated about the benefits of the program via newsletters and grower meetings. Signups will be held from January to March in 2008. A series of workshops will be offered to growers new to the program to help them

understand what is required to become certified as well as help in implementing the practices necessary to achieve certification. Success in achieving the goal will be measured in the number of vineyard acres certified in 2008. Pesticide risk reduction is built into the certification program. To qualify for certification the pesticides used during the entire year cannot exceed 50 PEAS impact units.

Goal 3 and Tactics

By the end of 2009 demonstrate the efficacy of an IPM program for vine mealybug in Lodi vineyards and measure pesticide risk reduction as a result of this program from over 600 PEAS units per acre to under 100 PEAS units.

This will be accomplished by carrying out a project funded by an EPA Region 9 FQPA grant. Dr. Kent Daane, University of California Berkeley, in cooperation with 8 Lodi growers will establish demonstration sites in 8 vineyards where IPM of vine mealybug will be implemented. Success will be measured using protocols outlined in the grant proposal.