

NGWB Grant Final Report (FY21-22)

Contract Number #18-13-428 - NWGGA – Wine Quality Advancement

Grant Amount: \$31,854.00

Contact Information

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Issue of Interest

The purpose of the project was to assess the overall quality of wine being produced in Nebraska and to offer data and consultations to help wineries address issues and implement changes to future vintages to improve the overall quality of Nebraska wine.

This project provided wineries and winemakers with important knowledge and tools that they needed to address issues and gave them information on areas where they were succeeding.

Approach to Problem

The issue was addressed by having participating wineries send in two samples to the MWGII lab at Iowa State University for testing and two of the same samples to Denise Gardner with Denise Gardner Winemaking for a sensory analysis.

Each winery sent in one of their best wines and one that they felt needed improvement.

MWGII provided testing and sent each winery their individual results. They also provided Denise Gardner with a report for review. They also sent the association the blind aggregate results to be used as a “state of the industry analysis”.

Denise Gardner provided sensory analysis information on each wine and reviewed the testing results from the MWGII lab with each winery. She also completed a virtual visit with participating wineries to address any questions or concerns they may have had. Denise will present a summary of all of the data she has collected to participating wineries in July with results remaining blind.

Goals/Achievement of Goals

The primary goal is to gain knowledge and to work towards improving the overall quality of Nebraska wines.

Participating wineries have indicated that this project has been one of the most beneficial projects that the NWGGA has provided for its members. The association feels that it has achieved its goal and would like to continue working towards quality advancement next year.

Results, Conclusions, Lessons Learned

The quality advancement project testing data has shown that Nebraska wines have inconsistencies in composition and quality that affect the overall products.

As a result of completing the first phases of the project participating wineries have measurable data that they can use when producing future vintages. With the request for the continuation of the project (Phase 3-5), it will allow wineries to submit samples from their next vintage to see if there has been an improvement in the overall quality.

In conclusion, it was found that this project has been very beneficial to the Nebraska Wine Industry and additional testing and data must be collected to continue to improve the quality of the wine that is produced in the state. Continued work on this project will affect the overall quality of Nebraska wines and will lead to increased recognition and sales in the market.

Progress Achieved According to Outcome Measures

The long-term benefit to the wine and grape industry is that more consumers will be exposed to better Nebraska wines, and it will create demand for these products, ultimately selling more wine and increasing demand for grapes.

This project also benefits participating wineries by allowing them to gain more knowledge into the wine making process that they will be able to utilize when purchasing grapes.

Financial Report

Wine Quality	Description
\$31,854.00	Grant Funding
-\$2,212.50	Denise Gardner Winemaking – 25% of Phase 1 (17 participating wineries) Nebraska Wine Quality Advancement Project PHASE I: Total = \$8,850.00 25% = \$2,212.50
-\$3,910.00	MGWII – Iowa State University – Lab Testing 34 Samples Submitted @ \$115 each = \$3,910.00
-\$6,637.50	Denise Gardner Winemaking – 75% of Phase 1 (17 participating wineries) Nebraska Wine Quality Advancement Project PHASE I: Total = \$8,850.00 Analyte Guide (\$1,200.00) Report Development (\$2,550.00) Sensory Evaluations to Individual Wineries (n = 34; \$5,100.00)

	75% = \$6,637.50
-\$8,400.00	Denise Gardner Winemaking – 100% of Phase 2 (15 participating wineries) Nebraska Wine Quality Advancement Project PHASE II: Total= \$8,400.00 Checklist (\$1,350.00) Virtual Winery Visitations (n = 15; \$4,500.00) Report Development & Presentation (\$2,550.00) 100% = \$8,400.00
\$10,694.00	Current Remaining Balance

*Remaining balance is higher than anticipated because not all 25 association wineries chose to participate.