



Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 194
Westfield, NY 14787
www.concordgrapebelt.org

August 29, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

**Subject: Release of Study - The Economic Impact of the Grape Juice and Winery
Sectors of the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt**

Contact: Andrew Dufresne, Executive Director, 716-386-4833; and4833@windstream.net

We are pleased to share with you the results of a recent study of importance to leaders and decision makers in this area.

Concord Grape Belt Economic Impact Summary Points

New Study Finds the Concord Grape Belt Supports Over 1,900 jobs and Contributes Over \$340 Million to the Regional Economy Annually

Key Partners In Study:

- Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association
- Community and Rural Development Institute, Cornell University
- Pennsylvania State University

Key Results of Study

The grape juice industry in the two-county Concord Grape Belt annually...

- supports over 1,900 jobs
- generates \$54 million in wages
- supports 800 farm families
- generates \$349 million in total economic impact (returns to farmers, wages to juice manufacturing employees, and income to businesses which provide goods and services to the juice industry.
- generates 35,000 visits to wineries
- generates wine sales of \$17.5 million

Other Key Points

- The Concord Grape Belt is a unique world-class resource, and potential tourist destination.
- The backbone of the Concord Grape Belt are the many hard-working grape growers and the largest grape-juice manufacturers in the world.
- It has also been estimated that the overall fruit and vegetable processing sector in the region, which encompasses more than grape juice processing and wineries, contributed as much as \$1 billion into the two county region along with 5,281 jobs. It could be argued that this larger fruit and vegetable processing industry might not exist without the core grape juice processing sub-sector.
- Despite global competition, recent weather challenges, and erratic prices, the Concord Grape Belt has been and will continue to be a solid contributor to the economy of the region. As an economic base industry in a region facing numerous challenges, the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt should be a high priority for economic development assistance, tourism development, and agricultural value-adding and diversification.

New Study Finds the Concord Grape Belt Supports Over 1,900 jobs and Contributes Over \$340 Million to the Regional Economy



A new study conducted by the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, with assistance from Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University, confirms that grapes are an important foundation of the economies of Chautauqua County, New York, and Erie County, Pennsylvania. Each year, about 800 growers produce 150,000 tons or more of grapes on 30,000 acres of vineyards. Value added products like juices, jellies, and dozens of other products, are processed locally and sold across the United States and exported around the world. In addition, the local wine industry, including both growers and vintners, is undergoing rapid expansion and creating opportunities for increased destination-based tourism in the region.

Jobs Supported:	1,923
Total Economic Impact:	\$340 million*
Wages Paid:	\$54 million
Number of Producers:	800
Bearing Acres:	30,000+
Retail Value of Juice Sales:	\$208 million
Retail Value of Wine Sales:	\$17.5 million
Wine-Related Tourist Visits:	35,000

* Total Economic Impact is the total value of sales generated by juice processors, growers and other businesses from whom they purchase.

This value-added chain has a substantial impact on the region's economy. Based on survey and secondary data collected and processed using IMPLAN economic impact software, the researchers estimated that grape-related production activities (i.e., growing, processing and wineries) supported **1,923 jobs** and contributed **\$340 million in total economic impact** to the two-county economy in 2004. They estimated that *total* fruit and vegetable processing annually support 5,281 jobs and contributes over \$1 billion to the two-county region by processors who became established here largely because of the grape industry.

Supported by some of the largest grape-juice and winery operations in the world and dozens of allied support businesses, the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt is home to one of the largest fruit processing industry clusters in the eastern United States. The industry is the economic backbone of the towns and villages in the region, and contributes substantially to the economies of the two counties and states of the region.

The Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt has faced many challenges over its more than 200 year history. The industry has been and continues to be successful because of its strong infrastructure and ability to adapt to change. Cooperation among industry producers and processors, the development of leading edge technologies by Cornell and Penn State Universities, and the adoption of these technologies by producers, have all been major factors in the success of the industry. An example is the recent commitment of over \$5 million by the state of New York to build a new research and extension education facility in the region.

For more information on this study, email inforequest@concordgrapebelt.org

New Study Finds the Concord Grape Belt Supports Over 659 jobs and Contributes \$141 Million to the Chautauqua County Economy



A new study conducted by the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, with assistance from Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University, confirms that grapes are an important foundation of the economy of Chautauqua County, New York. Each year, **584 growers** produce 104,000 tons or more of grapes on more than 19,000 acres of vineyards. Value added products like juices, jellies, and dozens of other products, are processed locally and sold across the United States and exported around the world. In addition, the local wine industry, including both growers and vintners, is undergoing rapid expansion and creating opportunities for increased destination-based tourism in the region.

Jobs Supported:	659
Total Economic Impact:	\$141 million*
Wages Paid:	\$25 million
Number of Producers:	584
Bearing Acres:	19,347
Retail Value of Juice Sales:	\$92 million
Retail Value of Wine Sales:	\$10.5 million
Wine-Related Tourist Visits:	24,500

* Total Economic Impact is the total value of sales generated by juice processors, growers and other businesses from whom they purchase. Does not include sales of grapes to processors outside the county.

This value-added chain has a substantial impact on the region's economy. Based on survey and secondary data collected and processed using IMPLAN economic impact software, the researchers estimated that grape-related production activities (i.e., growing, processing and wineries) supported **659 jobs** and contributed **\$141 million in total economic impact** to the county economy in 2004. They estimated that total fruit and vegetable processing contributed \$719 million to Chautauqua County by processors who became established here largely because of the grape industry.

Supported by some of the largest grape-juice and winery operations in the world and dozens of allied support businesses, the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt is home to one of the largest fruit processing industry clusters in the eastern United States. The industry is the economic backbone of the towns and villages in the region, and contributes substantially to the economies of both Chautauqua NY and Erie, PA counties and their respective states. Indeed, the economies of the two counties are very much intertwined and dependent on each other, and should be viewed together for the most complete picture of the Concord Grape Belt's economic impact.

The Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt has faced many challenges over its more than 200 year history. The industry has been and continues to be successful because of its strong infrastructure and ability to adapt to change. Cooperation among industry producers and processors, the development of leading edge technologies by Cornell and Penn State Universities, and the adoption of these technologies by producers, have all been major factors in the success of the industry. An example is the recent commitment of over \$5 million by the state of New York to build a new research and extension education facility in the region.

For more information on this study, email inforequest@concordgrapebelt.org

New Study Finds the Concord Grape Belt Supports Over 956 jobs and Contributes Over \$180 Million to the Erie County Economy



A new study conducted by the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association, with assistance from Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University, confirms that grapes are an important foundation of the economy of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Each year, about **230 growers** produce 60,000 tons or more of grapes over 11,000 acres of vineyards. Value added products like juices, jellies, and dozens of other products, are processed locally and sold across the United States and exported around the world. In addition, the local wine industry, including both growers and vintners, is undergoing rapid expansion and creating opportunities for increased destination-based tourism in the region.

Jobs Supported:	956
Total Economic Impact:	\$181 million*
Wages Paid:	\$29 million
Number of Producers:	230
Bearing Acres:	11,171+
Retail Value of Juice Sales:	\$116 million
Retail Value of Wine Sales:	\$6.97 million
Wine-Related Tourist Visits:	14,000

* Total Economic Impact is the total value of sales generated by juice processors, growers and other businesses from whom they purchase. Does not include sales of grapes to processors outside the county.

This value-added chain has a substantial impact on the region's economy. Based on survey and secondary data collected and processed using IMPLAN economic impact software, the researchers estimated that grape-related production activities (i.e., growing, processing and wineries) supported **956 jobs** and contributed over **\$181 million in total economic impact** to the two-county economy in 2004. They estimated that *total* fruit and vegetable processing contributed \$279 million to Erie County by processors who became established here largely because of the grape industry.

Supported by some of the largest grape-juice and winery operations in the world and dozens of allied support businesses, the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt is home to one of the largest fruit processing industry clusters in the eastern United States. The industry is the economic backbone of the towns and villages in the region, and contributes substantially to the economies of both Chautauqua NY and Erie, PA counties and their respective states. Indeed, the economies of the two counties are very much intertwined and dependent on each other, and should be viewed together for the most complete picture of the Concord Grape Belt's economic impact.

The Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt has faced many challenges over its more than 200 year history. The industry has been and continues to be successful because of its strong infrastructure and ability to adapt to change. Cooperation among industry producers and processors, the development of leading edge technologies by Cornell and Penn State Universities, and the adoption of these technologies by producers, have all been major factors in the success of the industry. An example is the recent commitment of over \$5 million by the state of New York to build a new research and extension education facility in the region.

For more information on this study, email inforequest@concordgrapebelt.org

file = Grape Ec Impact Study pdf 4pg