

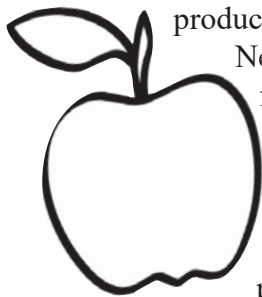
Intro to Agriculture

Agriculture, growing plants and raising animals, is important to New York State. About 23% of the state's land area, or 7 million acres of land, is used by 36,000 farms to produce food products.

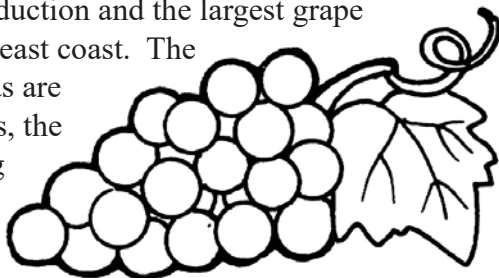
Milk is New York's leading agricultural product, ranking the state third in the United States for milk production.



New York ranks second in the nation for our production of apples. Our leading varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious.



Grapes, for juice and wine, place New York third in US production and the largest grape producer on the east coast. The four major grape producing areas are near Lake Erie, the Finger Lakes, the Hudson Valley and eastern Long Island.



In 2015, New York produced a record 601,000 gallons of maple syrup which preserved our ranking at second in the nation behind Vermont.

Farmers in New York grow many other crops and raise birds and animals too! For more about NYS agriculture and this year's theme of grapes and the book, "The Grapes Grow Sweet" by Lynne Tuft, look for the following:

- **Three features highlighting New York State Grape Growers and Vintners**
- **A Crossword Puzzle and Grape Word Search**
- **A Kid-Friendly Grape Recipe to Try at Home!**

Newspaper Activity: Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads that show examples of New York State agriculture. How many examples did your class find?

Agriculture Literacy

Meet The Brocks



Paul and Shannon didn't grow up as farmers. Shannon went to school to be a teacher and Paul studied engineering but their interest in wine led them back to school. Paul earned a masters degree in viticulture - the science of grape growing and Shannon has a wine tasting certification.

In 2011, the Brocks purchased the farm from its previous owner, Richard Figiel, who did not have family to take over the farm but he wanted someone to continue the tradition of the vineyard - growing grapes and making wine.

Grape farmers have to take very good care of their vines because

they grow back year after year. Some of the vines at the Brocks' farm are over 30 years old and still produce grapes every year. When ripe, they harvest their grapes by hand and collect them in small bins.

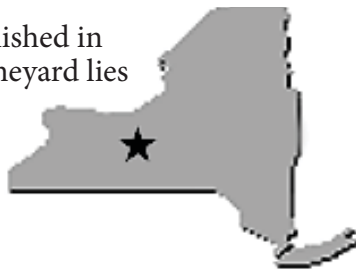
The Brocks live on the farm with their two children, 9 year old daughter, Sylvia and 6 year old son, Trey pictured above.



Silver Thread Vineyard was established in 1982 on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake. The vineyard lies on 8 acres and includes a tasting room located at 1401 Caywood Road in Lodi, Seneca County.

The Brocks grow seven different varieties of wine grapes.

Fun Fact: The winery generates 100% of its energy needs from a 28 kilowatt solar panel system located on-site. For more information about the vineyard visit their website at silverthreadwine.com.



Newspaper Activity: Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about families. Did you find any examples of families working together? What type(s) of work are they doing?

Agriculture Literacy

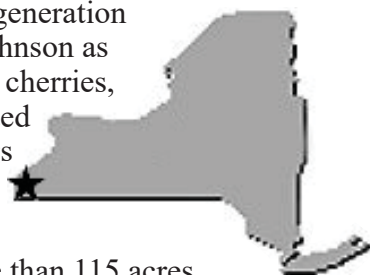
Meet The Johnsons

Jennifer and Frederick Johnson Jr. are pictured here at a wine tasting event. The Johnsons became sole owners of the Johnson Estate Winery in 2010 after decades of working outside of the family business. Before “retiring” to the winery full time, Fred worked for Pepsico, Chiquita Banana, and Nature Sweet (tomatoes) and Jennifer worked in finance and spent several years promoting the Chautauqua–Lake Erie Wine Trail.

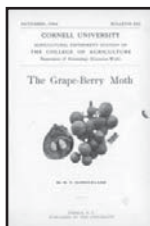


The Lake Erie grape belt has over 30,000 acres of vineyards and 25 wineries. The Johnson vineyard is just one of them.

Johnson Estate Winery is a third generation family farm established in 1909 by Frederick Johnson as Sunnyslope Fruit Farm which then grew apples, cherries, peaches and grapes (mostly Concord). It is located in Westfield, Chautauqua County along Freelings Creek, approximately 62 miles from downtown Buffalo on the south shore of Lake Erie.



Today, 13 varieties of grapes are grown on more than 115 acres of vineyards on the 300 acre farm. Grapes have been grown at Johnson Estate for over a century. The winery, established in 1961, is the oldest estate winery in NY. For more info go to johnsonwinery.com



Fun Facts: All three generations of the Johnson family studied at Cornell University. Founder Frederick Johnson (1901) focused on entomology - the study of insects. He even wrote a book about the grape berry moth. Frederick Spencer Johnson (1943) started the winery in 1961 and Frederick S. Johnson Jr. (1975) and his wife Jennifer (1979) are the current owners.

Newspaper Activity: Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about industry, or types of businesses, in your community. How many have ties to agriculture? Did you find any involving grapes, grape juice or wine?

Lesson Extension: Research and compare and contrast the agricultural technologies for a fruit farm of 1909 to those of today.

Agriculture Literacy

Meet The DeVitos



Pictured here are Carlo and Dominique DeVito. Neither of the DeVitos grew up as farmers but because of their love of wine, they decided they might enjoy making their own. Carlo and Dominique soon discovered that growing grapes and making wine, although fun, was a lot of hard work.

As grapes ripen, getting sweeter, the fruit needs to be protected from natural predators that enjoy eating the fruit too. Deer, birds, mice and insects all try to steal a taste of the sweet grapes. If you look closely at this picture, you will see rows of vines in the background covered with netting to protect the grapes from birds. The vineyard also has an eight foot high fence to try to keep the deer away.

Hudson-Chatham Winery was established in 2006 on 14 acres of a south-facing slope, with appropriate soil for growing grapes on the site of what was once a dairy farm in Ghent, Columbia County.



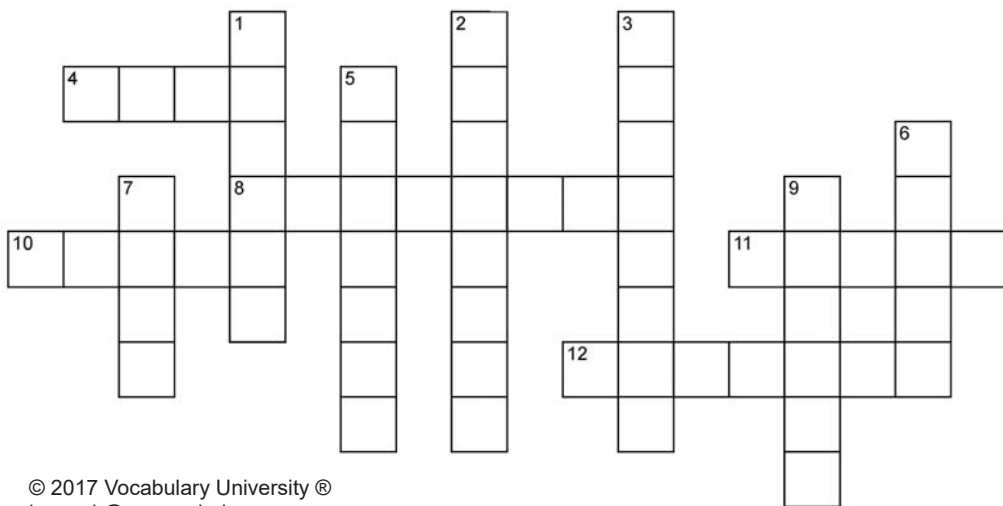
The farm grows 7 varieties of grapes for wine making but the DeVitos also grow raspberries, blueberries and have a small orchard of apples, pears and peaches. When previous farmers owned the property they would make maple syrup. People would know the sap was flowing when they saw the steam coming out of the barn! Now there are over 25 wooden wine barrels in that same barn. For more info go to hudsonchathamwinery.com

Fun Fact: The DeVitos live in a farmhouse that was built in 1790. Many believe that the building is haunted. Although Carlo and Dominique have never seen a ghost, they have heard and seen many odd things, including a latched closet door open and close on its own.

Newspaper Activity: Look through the newspaper (print or electronic) for stories, pictures or ads about industry, or types of businesses, in your community. How many have ties to agriculture? Did you find any involving grapes, grape juice, jam or wine?

"Grape Grow Sweet" Crossword

www.myvocabulary.com



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 jancook@myvocabulary.com

Use the clues below to fill in the grapes, vineyard and agricultural terms.

Across

- 4. With a sharp, tart or disagreeable taste
- 8. Contracted into folds or wrinkles (lips)
- 10. Liquid squeezed out of fruit (and vegetables)
- 11. Plants that climb with stems needing support
- 12. Season where quantity of crops are gathered

Down

- 1. Juicy green, deep red to purplish-black berries
- 2. A field of grapevines
- 3. A large open cart used to transport harvested grapes
- 5. People who gather by plucking fruit (and vegetables)
- 6. Pleasing to the taste with a large sugar content
- 7. Grown and developed; ready to eat
- 9. A wine-making establishment where beverages are made from fermented grape juice

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|
| WORD BANK: | GONDOLAS | JUICE | RIPE | VINES |
| | GRAPES | PICKERS | SOUR | VINEYARD |
| | HARVEST | PUCKERED | SWEET | WINERY |

For more vocabulary lists and puzzles go to www.myvocabulary.com

Agriculture Literacy

Grape Grow Sweet Word Search

"The Grapes Grow Sweet" Word Search

D H G R U J J T F W
Y E U R U D S U V I
S O R I A E M O D N
S E C E V P O N R E
X E N R K B E C A R
J G A I S C I S Y Y
E H J A V W U L E E
P I C K E R S P N P
S A L O D N O G I I
T E E W S B K D V R

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Find and circle the agricultural words listed below:

GONDOLAS

GRAPES

HARVEST

JUICE

PICKERS

PUCKERED

RIPE

SOUR

SWEET

VINES

VINEYARD

WINERY

Newspaper Activity: Select a story from the newspaper (print or electronic) that is interesting to your class. Use the important words from the story to make a new word search or crossword puzzle. Give yourselves extra credit if the story is about grapes or New York State agriculture.

To learn more about NYS agriculture go to www.agclassroom.org/ny/
For more information about local grapes go to the Grape Discovery Center website at www.grapediscoverycenter.com.

Agriculture Literacy

Juicy Grape Pops Recipe

Here's a kid-friendly idea to have fun making a healthy snack.



What you will need:

Blender
Pop mold

Ingredients:

3 cups of grapes (any color)

Instructions:

1. Wash your grapes, pull them off the stem, and remove the seeds.
2. Place in a blender, cover and blend until smooth.
3. Pour into pop molds.
4. Freeze until hard.

Enjoy!

Recipe Source: www.superhealthykids.com

To learn more about the crops and livestock grown and raised on farms across New York State visit the Kid's Zone: New York State Agriculture website at www.agclassroom.org/kids/ag_facts.htm



Newspaper Activity: Look through the local newspaper (print or online) and other sources for recipes that use grapes or grape juice as an ingredient.

Healthy Tip: Including several daily servings of fruits & vegetables as part of an overall healthy diet may lower the risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer.

Source: www.choosemyplate.gov