

3/10/2025
Dwight Pflipsen-Owner
Snake Creek Vineyard and Winery
2052 30th Ave NW
Max, ND 58759

Topic: SB-2020-Relating to NDSU Research and Extension Services

My background and experience in the wine and grape growing industry

I grew up on a Century, 3rd generation homesteaded farm south of Max, ND, and have retained the farm as I have a strong loyalty to North Dakota and have kept close ties with the state. I am a member of NDGWA and potentially may become a member of WAND. In 2009, as a hobbyist, I started making wine and beer. In 2017, I trademarked Snake Creek Vineyard and Winery in ND. In the past 3 years I have worked with the SCS Garrison office to plant over 400 fruit trees, fruit bushes and trees in my orchard. In my vineyard, 6 years ago, I test planted 150 vines of 5 different grape vine varieties. Four years ago, with the drought and a cold winter with no snow, I lost my entire vineyard. I have put a pause on replanting and expanding my vineyard, until grape vine varieties that will consistently produce quality grapes in our variations of ND climate and soil conditions become available. I have worked with Chris Asmundson-NDSU-Minot location and enjoy working with them as they are very knowledgeable and helpful in a practical manner of growing and developing grape vines. NDSU-Minot is an ideal location to develop grape vines as the climate, soil conditions, land space and staff are highly skilled for this purpose that can serve the whole state of ND. Their present vineyard is in great shape. Chris works with local wineries and growers to develop a variety of grape vines that meet their needs. In fact, last Friday, 3/10/25, Chris put on a seminar for Randy Albrecht-Wolf Creek Winery, me and employees on growing grape vines. This was held at Pointe of View Winery, Burlington, ND, Jeff Peterson-Owner. Chris has been working with Jeff Peterson extensively. Jeff provided Randy and me with cuttings from his vineyard.

I request that the legislature provide funds to continue the research at the NDSU-Minot location for grape vines to produce quality wine in ND soil and climate conditions for the ND Commercial Winery's (WAND), The Commercial Grape Vine Producers and NDGWA.

Thank you,
Dwight Pflipsen