April 2026 Newsletter

- REMINDER: Grower Workshop Series begins April 29
- Ag Pass Program: Updates & Trainings
- Vineyard Mothballing: Podcast & Resources
- New Wine Competition: Next Gen International Wine Awards
- Affiliate Sponsor: Wine Industry Network
- Affiliate Sponsor: Vineyard Industry Products

REMINDER: Grower Workshop Series begins April 29

The **Vineyard to Market Workshop Series** launches on April 29 with Workshop 1 - Buyer Perspectives: *What Wineries Are Looking for From Growers.*

Speakers:
- Ben Byczynski, Director of Vineyard Operations, Draxton Wines
- Ryan Decker, Owner, DeckerVIT

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Location: The Greenview Bar & Grill, 19210 Hartmann Road, Hidden Valley Lake, California 95467
RSVP required: events@lakecountywinegrape.org

MORE INFO

News from Lake County Department of Agriculture

2026 Ag Pass Program Updates

- Program Eligibility/Qualifications
- New – Annual Ag Pass Card for Owner/Operators and Managerial staff
- Mandatory Approved Fire Safety training required for all Ag Pass applicants

Forms can be found online.

Upcoming Ag Pass Fire Safety Trainings

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: Lake County Fire Protection District, 14815 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Location: Bachelor Valley Grange, 9355 Government Street, Upper Lake, CA 95485

Only need to attend one session. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Printable Flyer

REGISTER

Vineyard Mothballing Podcast & Resources

In this interview, Chris Chen, Integrated Vineyard Systems Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension, outlines vineyard mothballing practices, including pruning, pest and disease management, irrigation by rootstock and soil type, and effects on future yields.

LISTEN NOW

Next Gen International Wine Awards

The Next Gen International Wine Awards is a new competition judged by wine professionals 39 and under, selected for their active roles across the industry. Judging will take place August 25-26, 2026.

Learn More

Grape & Bulk Wine Marketplace

Visit the Marketplace page of the LCWC website for a list of Lake County bulk wine, grapes, and vines available for sale.

Buyer Guide

Weather

View April Report from Dr. Gregory Jones.

View current weather data for Lake County from Western Weather Group.

Made possible by funding from American AgCredit and LCWC.

Affiliate Sponsor: Wine Industry Network

Wine Industry Sales Symposium
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 | Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Rohnert Park, CA
Join wine industry professionals for a full day of insights focused on driving sales, enhancing the tasting room experience, and adapting to today's market challenges. Hear directly from winery leaders, sales and marketing experts, and industry innovators who are navigating these shifts in real time and sharing practical, actionable ideas you can apply right away.

Lake County Winegrape Commission members receive **$20 off registration** with code **LCWC2026**.

Learn more and register: www.winesalessymposium.com

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