

# ***15 Years of Trials, Tribulations, and Successes in Iowa Viticulture***

**2-24-16**

**Northern Grapes Project**

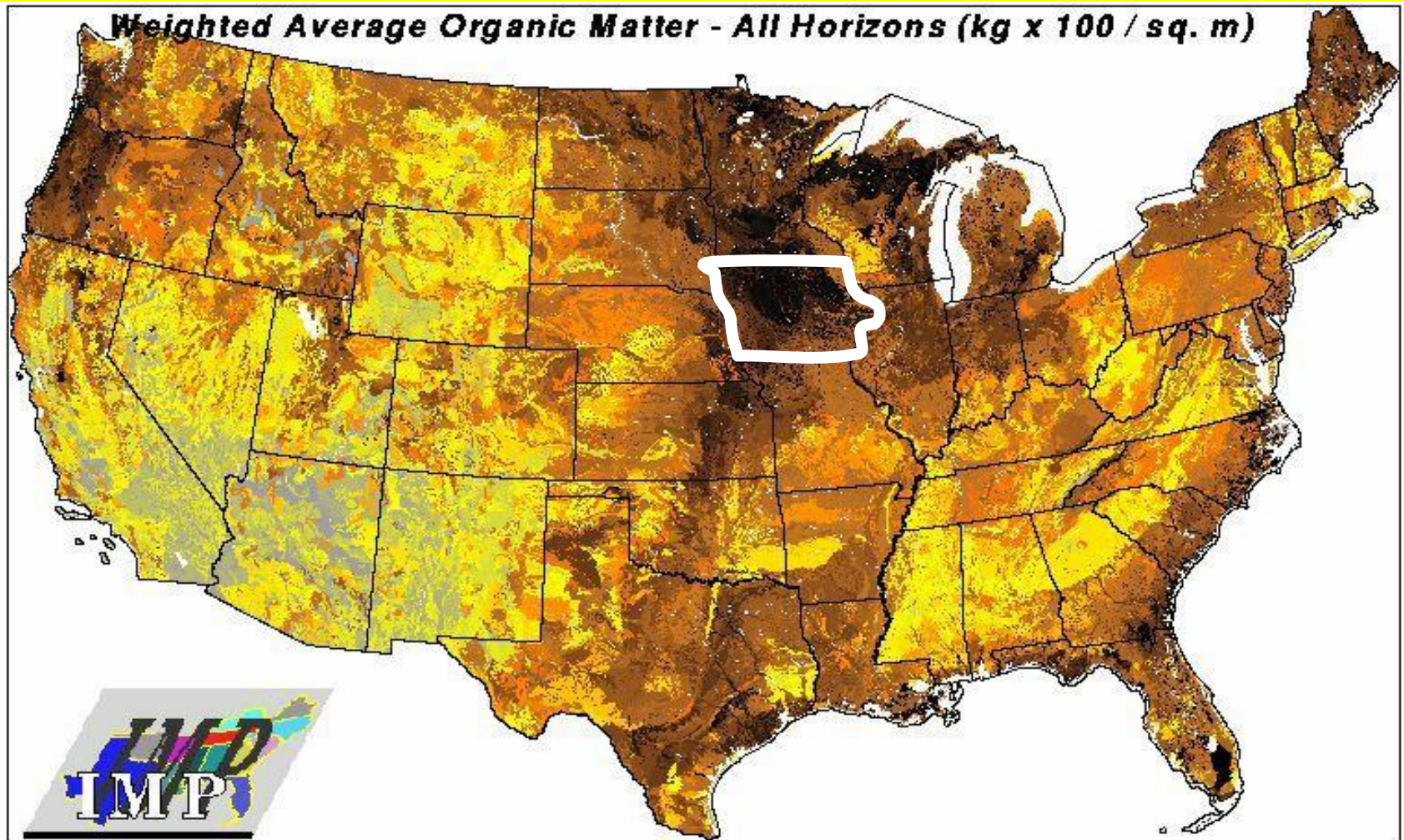
**Kalamazoo, MI**



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# Too much VIGOR – Most common problem.





## Iowa Wine History

A.S. Bonham planted grapes in Council Bluffs in 1857



Fig. 1. First vineyard set in the Council Bluffs section. Planted in 1857; still vigorous and productive.

# White Elk Vineyards (1869 – 1914?)

## Keokuk, IA

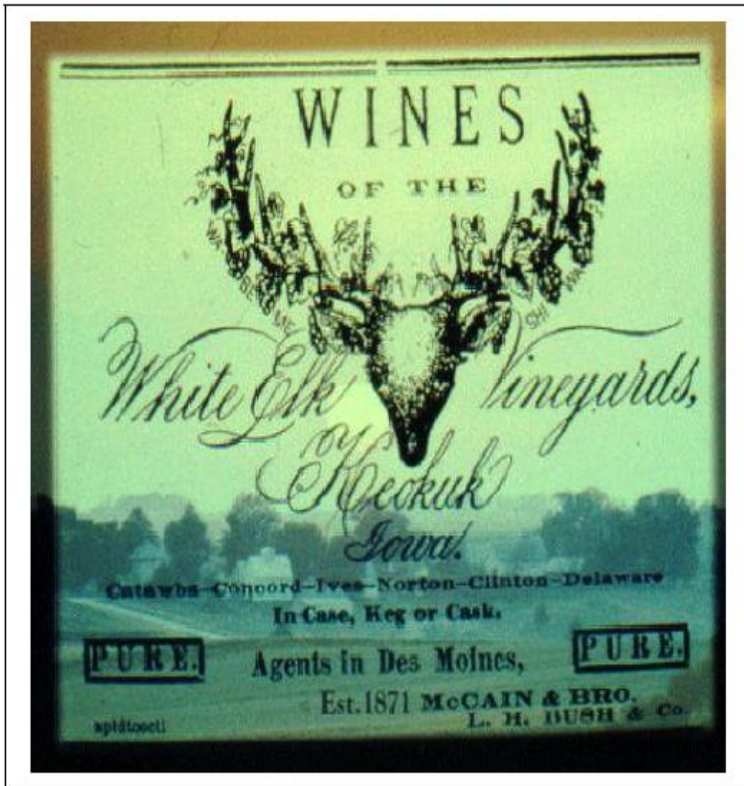


photo by Ed Vinson

*White Elk Vineyards Established in 1869*

*Ruins still located 2 mi. north of Keokuk.*



## Old-time photo of the day Oct. 3 Des Moines Register

OCTOBER 3, 2009

Comments (9)

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**From 1940:** Here's the caption from this photo, which ran in August, 1940: "Workmen at the Council Bluffs Grape Growers Association winery move one of the 18 vats recently purchased. Fifteen of the vats are being moved into the basement of the new addition to the association. ... Each vat holds 3,500 gallons of wine. Left to right are Ralph Prior, Mike Reggio and Clay McBride."

# So What Happened to Iowa's Wine Industry?

## 1. Prohibition of Alcohol

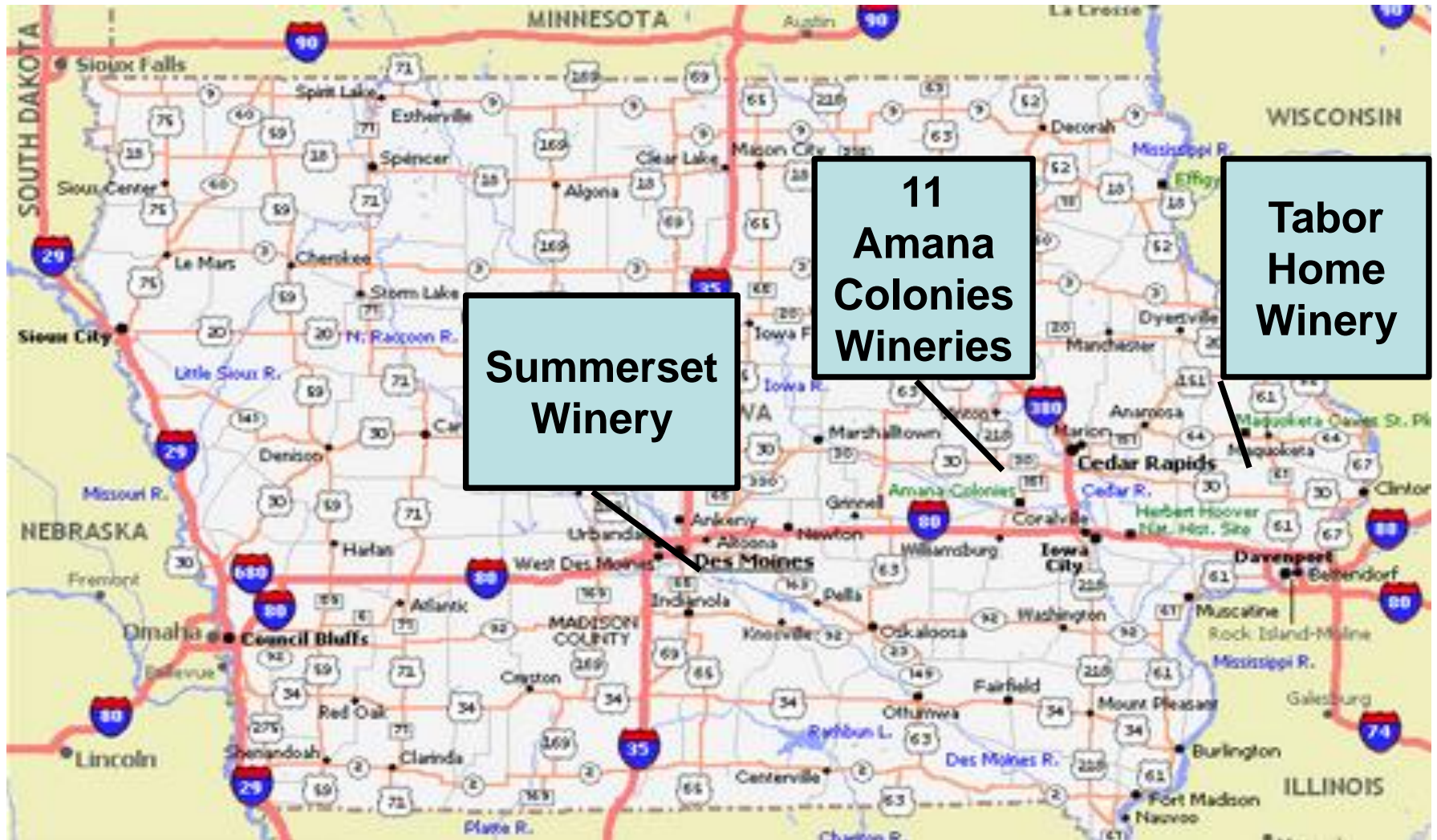
- Iowa Prohibition 1914 to 1933
- U.S. Prohibition 1920 to 1933

## 2. Armistice Blizzard, November 11 & 12, 1940

## 3. Introduction of **highly volatile 2,4-D's** in late 1940's

## 4. Government Farm **Commodity Programs**

# Year 2000 Iowa Wineries





# Iowa's Wine Renaissance Started When....



120 people showed up to Iowa's First Winegrape Meeting on Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at the Odd Fellows Hall - Indianola, IA



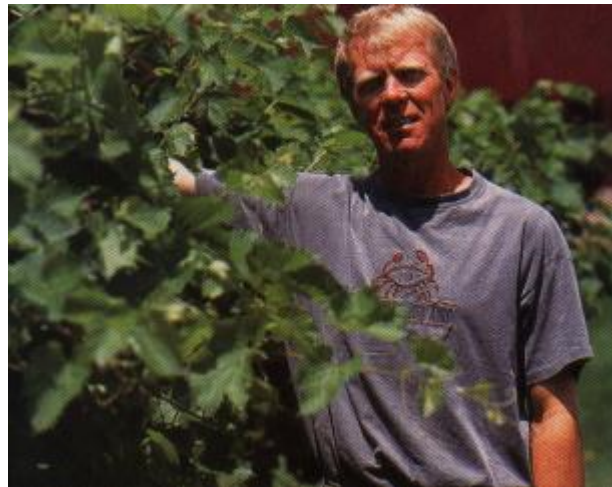


## Founding Fathers of the Iowa Winegrape Industry

Paul Tabor, PhD  
Tabor Home Winery  
Baldwin, IA



Dr. William  
Brown Timber Hill  
Winery  
Leon, IA



Ron Mark  
Summerset  
Winery Indianola,  
IA



# IOWA WINE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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IOWA WINERIES

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IWGA Grape Exchange - Buy and Sell Quality Iowa Grapes

8-21-2000 Iowa Grape Growers Association – 501c5  
4-7-05 Renamed Iowa Wine Growers Association



No in-state fruit requirements for wineries

Winery with vineyard remains assessed as agriculture

2005 Iowa wine festival law

Winery excise tax exemption for retail sales

Native wineries can self distribute

\$25/year license allows businesses to sell and sample native wine

Approx. 10% of wine taxes go to research education & marketing



# Blind Leading the Blind

Wrong Cultivars

2000 to 2005

Home-made  
Equipment



Acreage Agriculture

Organic Intentions

Wrong Spacing

Wrong Sites

Weird Trellis Systems



11-10-10



8-22-08



5-13-02



6-11-11







## Iowa Soils Adapted for Vineyards:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soils/interpretations.html>





Landscape Timbers



5-1-01 DeWitt Vineyard Planting



67 acre vineyard established in turf type fescue with no weed control in the row.





8 Grape  
Harvesters in  
Iowa Today







**9-24-05**  
**Iowa's**  
**First Wine**  
**Festival**  
**Indianola, IA**





# June 2005 Murli Comes to ISU







# Midwest Grape & Wine Industry Institute established...9-26-06

## About Us Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

Helping support the state's evolving grape and wine industry, because the potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.



<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Wine/>

## Research, Quality, Training

The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute was formed as a result of the state's evolving grape & wine industry.

Goals of the Institute include:

- Conduct research to evaluate cold-hardy grape varieties that can thrive in the Midwest
- Conduct enology (the science of wine & wine making) research
- Develop a wine quality award program that will provide wine buyers a quality-assurance stamp of approval
- Establish an outreach program to the industry by training a team of specialists
- Partner with community colleges to develop job training programs specific to growing grapes and making wine

## Wineries and Vineyards in Iowa

Presently, there are 92 licensed wineries and over 300 vineyards (totaling 1,200+ acres) in Iowa. The potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.



## Contact Us

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### Office Hours:

Weekdays-

Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Summer: 7:30am to 4:00pm

Holidays: Hours vary, please call in advance

[Find Us](#)

Support the  
Midwest Grape and Wine  
Industry Institute

**FULL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IOWA WINE  
AND WINE GRAPES -- 2012**

**\$420 Million**

**\$28 Economic  
Impact for each  
\$1 in Iowa wine  
sold.**

| IOWA WINE<br>AND WINE GRAPES          | 2012<br>ECONOMIC<br>IMPACT     | 2008<br>ECONOMIC<br>IMPACT     |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Full-time Equivalent Jobs             | 2,678                          | 1,777                          |
| Wages Paid                            | \$83 million                   | \$50 million                   |
| Wine Produced (Gallons)               | 296,900                        | 186,700                        |
| Retail Value of Iowa Wine Sold        | \$15 million                   | \$10 million                   |
| Number of Wineries                    | 99                             | 74                             |
| Grape-Bearing Acres                   | 1,250                          | 1,000                          |
| Wine-Related Tourism Expenditures     | \$41 million                   | \$27 million                   |
| Number of Wine-Related Tourists       | 358,000                        | 237,000                        |
| Taxes Paid: Federal / State and Local | \$42 million /<br>\$26 million | \$14 million /<br>\$14 million |

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine/industry-information>



# Netter Getter hits the Market in 2007



Summerset Winery  
Indianola, IA 9-29-06



ISU Horticulture Farm 7-30-07

9-30-02



9-3-04



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Grape  
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Wine  
Facts



8-30-06



8-29-08







7-28-10



8-16-09



8-9-13



Wine Experience  
8-13-13



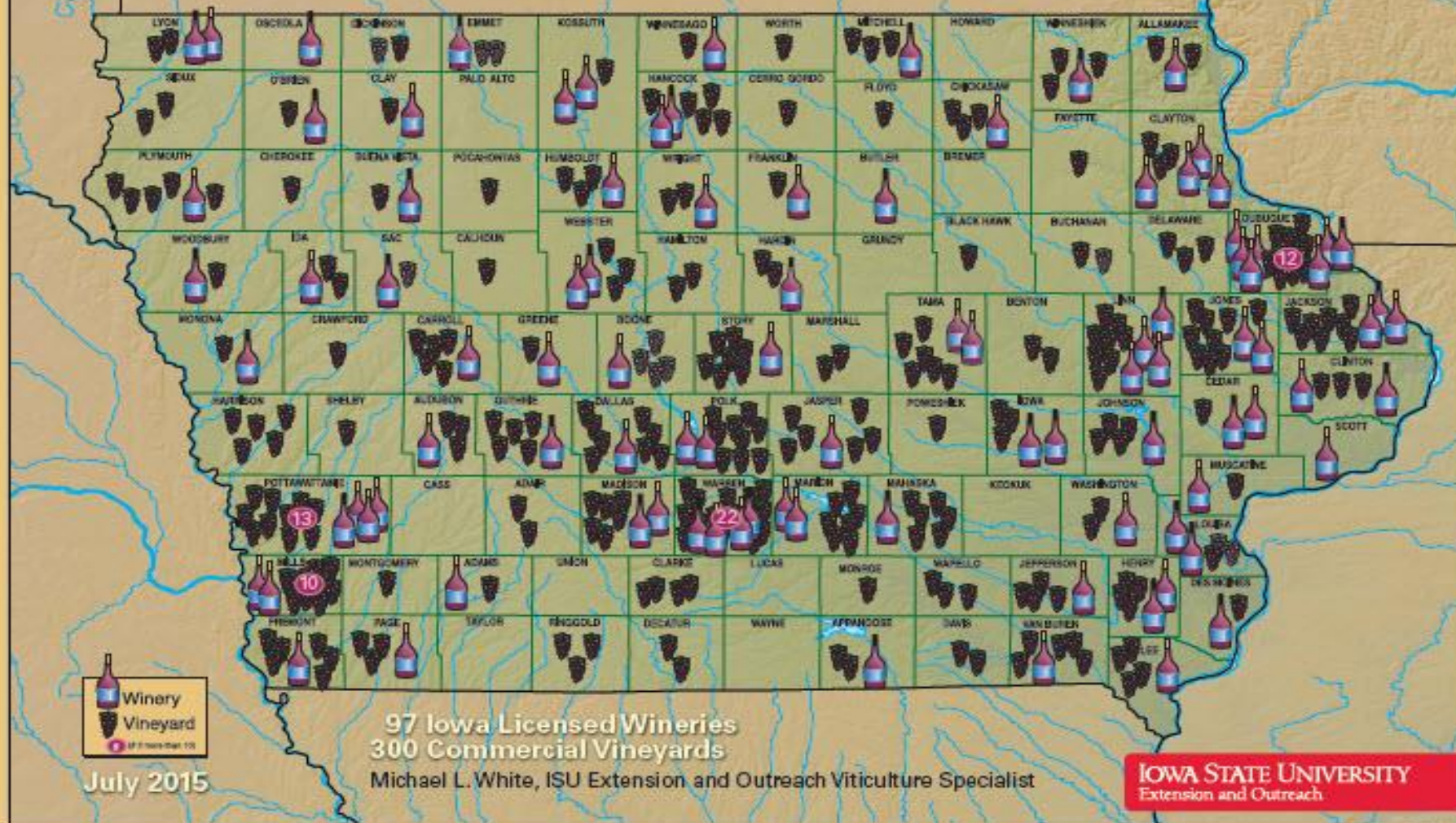


# Choose Iowa Quality Wines!



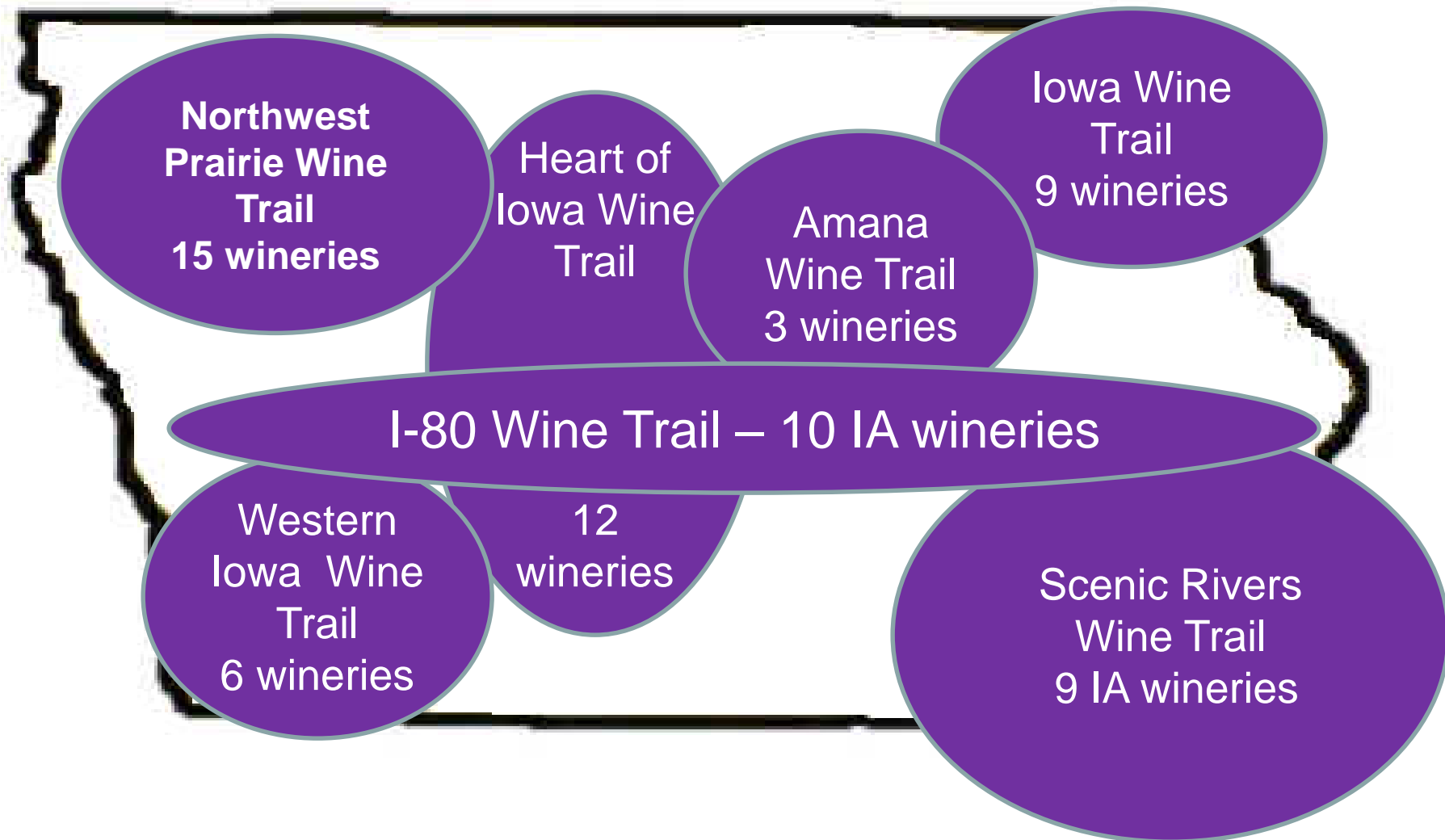
<http://www.iowawinegrowers.org>

# Iowa Grape Expectations





# Seven Wine Trails



# Iowa has National and International Award Winning Wines





# Iowa's Winegrape Industry





*Thank You*  
*&*  
*Have a "Grape" Day*

