

Commissioner Staples Awards More Than \$1 Million In Grants For Wine Education And Research (04-09-2008)

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is pleased to announce Commissioner Todd Staples has approved approximately \$1.6 million in Enology and Viticulture Education and Research (EVER) grants that will directly benefit Texas' booming wine industry. The awards will be given to Texas AgriLife Extension Service, AgriLife Research, Texas Tech University and Grayson County College for projects designed to improve enology (wine making) and viticulture (grape growing).

"The Texas wine industry ranks fifth in the nation and contributes more than \$1 billion annually to our state's economy," Commissioner Staples said. "Research is the key to sustaining these results, and we must continue to build on them for future prosperity among the Texas wine industry."

TDA is awarding Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas AgriLife Research and Texas Tech University \$1.2 million to study projects such as the effects nutrients have on wines, and to determine treatments for chemical instability.

Grayson County College is receiving \$365,000 to develop a Viticulture and Enology Certificate and Associate Degree Program.

Texas Wine Industry

Texas is the fifth-largest wine-producing state in the country, contributing more than \$1 billion annually to the economy.

- More than 155 wineries
- More than 220 commercial vineyards
- More than 3,700 acres of grapes
- More than 2 million gallons of wine

Texas has dedicated more than \$4.5 million to supporting and growing the Texas wine industry.

- Viticulture education and research
- Vineyard management, grape growing and wine making programs
- Extension expertise, resources
- Marketing and promotion

Marketing research