

Cornell Craft Beverage Analysis Laboratory and Wine Data Bank

January 2020 NYGWF report for project term 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Key Personnel

Pam Raes¹ and Chris Gerling²

¹Research Aide, and ²Enology Senior Extension Associate, Dept. Food Science, Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY, 14456

Laboratory Activities:

While there are probably millions of ways to document the staggering differences between 2019 and 2020, the CCBAL summary statistics are not one of them. The final numbers look remarkably close for the past two years, but that's where the similarities end. The pandemic forced the lab to close from mid-March to late April, and only one staff member per day was allowed on-site following reopening. As harvest approached, we were allowed to have two and then three people working in the lab at the same time, but restrictions remain in place even now. Given the limitations on time and personnel, the fact that the annual totals are so close to 2019 is all the more notable. One final 2020 change was the loss of brewing extension associate Kaylyn Kirkpatrick, who returned to Colorado to take a job with the Brewer's Association.

The WAL generally serves two primary groups of consumers: new industry members seeking knowledge and/ or troubleshooting help, and established wineries performing QC or facing unusual problems. The need for routine analysis or backup validation for startup operations is a chief concern, and we continue to interact with new industry members in this capacity. Demand for analytical training remains high and is reflected in our continued development of new workshops and training programs.

In addition to new producers, the bulk of the year's analyses focused on quality checks for established wineries. Interpretive services and advanced lab analysis are still in high demand, and the WAL is in a unique position to meet this industry need. The lab's regional and technical knowledge base, and ability to perform lab analyses requiring instrumentation and training beyond the scope of the average winery, remains essential to the identification and rectification of a wide range of wine flaws. We also are seeing more demand for export analysis from wineries across the state.

Before 2015, sterile bottling and checks for sterility were the most frequently sought tests. More recently, clients are seeking analysis for regulatory purposes, including export certification, label verification or to qualify under

Year	Samples	Clients
1998	247	47
1999	450	54
2000	321	51
2001	533	51
2002	542	54
2003	439	65
2004	524	65
2005	382	68
2006	572	95
2008*	446	104
2009	346	68
2010	460	80
2011	822	87
2012	844	85
2013	685	91
2014	618	98
2015	641	101
2016	841	123
2017	998	169
2018	1762	248
2019	2196	259
2020	2067	252
Mean	761	105
<i>*Data for 2007 is unavailable.</i>		

a certain TTB standard of identity. We are also seeing more usage of our infrared wine (and juice) scans, as wineries look for quick checks of the main wine chemical parameters.

2020 %	2019 %	2018 %	Topic
37	40	27	Wine Scan (IR)
23	26	34	Alcohol Measurement
14	12	15	Sterility, yeast counts, sterile bottling
13	12	10	SO2
13	10	14	Other (Export, YAN, residual sugar, CO2, sensory)

In 2017, the lab worked with our accounting service center to complete an internal review of our pricing structure. We tried to involve both our contacts in the ASC as well as NY Wine & Grape in our planning so everyone would understand and be ready for any changes. In 2018, we overhauled our database to make it more usable and efficient. As demand for lab services rise, so does the associated record-keeping, invoicing and general administration. Our goal has been to better automate our sample intake and billing output to minimize errors and increase our ability to collect and analyze data. The new database went into action in July of 2018, and a new invoicing method was introduced in January of 2019. The database is now hosted on a server and accessible by any member of the lab. Invoicing no longer requires numerous manual transcriptions, decreasing both labor and errors.