

Introduction to LISW Certification

Welcome!

Welcome to the Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing certification program. The core group of Jim Thompson, Richard Olsen-Harbich, Kareem Massoud and Larry Perrine, with the consistent help of Alice Wise of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, has worked with numerous Long Island vineyard managers to create the LISW Certification program that you enrolled in.

Updating VineBalance for Long Island

We know that our first attempt to modify the statewide Vine Balance Sustainable Viticulture Workbook is a work in progress. There will be questions, some issues we missed, and challenges to solve so that we may gradually adjust the program to suit the ultimate goal of having a third party-evaluated, sustainable certification program that is well-respected and credible. Please feel free to bring any questions or issues to our attention.

The Core Criteria and Pesticide and Fertilizer Use Protocols

These are documents that we have created to address the specific issues and challenges that we face on Long Island. Please feel free to offer any opinions or perspectives on these documents. There may be guidelines or requirements that are not applicable to your business. Again, please bring any conflicts to our attention. We expect to continue upgrading and revising the guidelines and protocols in the coming years.

We are here to help you!

If you are not clear about something, just ask our evaluator, Allan Connell, or any member of the core group, and we will do our best to give you a solid answer. Don't be overwhelmed by the sheer size of the Workbook, or worry that you can't achieve every part of the Core Criteria in your first year of certification. We are working to be flexible and encouraging so that this is a positive learning experience for everyone.

What You Need to Do to Prepare for your LISW Third Party Evaluation

- 1) Score yourself on the LISW 18 Core Criteria Scoring Worksheet found on Forms and Standards page on LISW website on left side of page under heading: Vineyard Certification Guidelines.
- 2) Score yourself on the entire VineBalance Self-Assessment Workbook found as sections from Soil Management all the way through to Pesticide Management. Then summarize your scores on the VineBalance Workbook Scoresheet also found on the right side of the page, under the heading Vinebalance Self-Assessment Workbook. The scoresheet will not precisely match the Long Island version of the Vine Balance Workbook due to the changes made to accommodate Long Island conditions and practices and the LISW program. When an item in the Scoresheet is not applicable write "NA" instead of a number.
- 3) Write a short, concise plan describing what you are doing to reduce or eliminate soil erosion or the leaching of Nitrogen or pesticides from the soil. Much of this will come directly from practices encouraged by the VineBalance Workbook and required by the LISW pest control and nutrition protocols. They will include cultural practices such as using a recycling sprayer, leaf removal, limiting nitrogen application, using split applications of nitrogen, etc. A conservation plan developed by NRCS that addresses any runoff or erosion problems will satisfy the requirement for the soil erosion portion.
- 4) Write a short, concise description of your Ecological Compensation Areas on farm, including-- woods, hedgerows, under-the-vine and between-the row cover crops, set aside wild areas, and any part of your farm where bio-diversity reigns.
- 5) Complete the Pesticide Material Use Analysis worksheet that demonstrates your compliance with the Pesticide Protocol rules and Core Criteria governing fungicide, insecticide, and herbicide use. Use Sample Pesticide Material Use Analysis as example. Summarize results on LISW Pesticide Scoring Worksheet found on left side of page.
- 6) If you have any questions regarding preparation for your LISW third party evaluation, please call evaluator Allan Connell prior to setting up Evaluation.
- 7) Call Allan Connell and set up date and time for your LISW Evaluation (631-291-1552).

Note Well: If you notice a conflict between the Core Criteria, the VineBalance Workbook or any of our Pesticide and Fertilizer Use Protocols, bring it to our attention and it will be straightened out. Nothing will be perfect, especially in the first years.