

# Press Release



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## **Lakewood Vineyards lauded for environmental protection**

### **Road-side Sign Recognizes Exemplary Conservation Commitment**

HECTOR, July 29, 2015 – Lakewood Vineyards, owned by the Stamp family, were presented with an Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) "Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment" road-side sign recognizing their conservation of natural resources and strong desire for environmental protection.

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District presented the sign award during the Schuyler County Farm Bureau summer picnic held at Hazlitt Winery in Hector. 140 people were in attendance including town and county elected officials, NYS Senator Thomas O'Mara, and Alison Hunt, Deputy District Director for Congressman Tom Reed's office. This is the seventh year of the AEM signage program in Schuyler County and the Stamp family are the 12<sup>th</sup> Schuyler farm family to receive the award. "AEM is a state program and to receive a sign, a farm must have a high level of environmental stewardship and a solid commitment toward implementing practices to address the farm's priority water quality concerns," said Elaine Dalrymple, Conservation District Field Manager.

Lakewood was one of the first farms in the county to participate in the AEM program. They have been farming in their present location for about 65 years, although their Schuyler ancestors and farming heritage go back many more generations. The fourth generation is now working on the farm which is 220 total acres and 82 acres of grapes with at least 15 different varieties being grown. A winery was started 25 years ago and has expanded into one of the largest wineries in the Finger Lakes.

This farm has implemented many best management practices (BMP's) to reduce nonpoint source pollution from their farm including the use of row middle mulch and cover crops, diversion ditches and vegetated headlands to reduce erosion, an agrichemical mixing facility to prevent any potential pesticide spills from entering the environment, nutrient and integrated pest management including soil and petiole testing, pest scouting, and precise weather monitoring.

The Stamp's host many educational programs on their farm for both the farming and non-farming public, youth and adults. They are involved in numerous viticulture organizations that improve and promote the industry including the Seneca Lake Wine Trail and the NY Wine and Grape Foundation.

Eleven members from three generations of the family are actively involved with the farm. "We are very proud to be a family farm that grows and produces high quality grapes and wine and know that to have our fifth generation in farming we need to protect our soil and water. The AEM program, in its many facets, has been very helpful to us in this endeavor," said Chris Stamp, Lakewood owner.

The Schuyler County Farm Bureau and the Schuyler County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board are co-sponsors of the awards with the Conservation District. To learn more about the AEM program in Schuyler County visit [www.schuylerswcd.com](http://www.schuylerswcd.com) or call the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District at 535-0878.

Caption for Attached Photo: From left to right: Erin Stamp, wife of Dave, holding daughter, Quinn; Dave Stamp; Amelia Stamp, daughter of Chris and Liz; Chris Stamp; Ben Stamp, son of Chris and Liz; Abby Stamp, daughter of Chris and Liz; Bev Stamp, mother of Dave and Chris.