

May 31, 2019

## **Cargill, Inc. Awards local Soil and Water Conservation District \$16,000 to aid in Sediment Reduction to battle HAB's**

**Watkins Glen, NY-** Cargill, Inc. awards Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District \$16,000 to assist with a unique state of the art demonstration project that will be utilized on over 250 acres of vineyard land surrounding Seneca Lake. This innovative project will allow for the purchase of an under the vine mower. This mower will be utilized to maintain vegetation within the vine row. This permanent cover will save over 250 tons of soil. Saving over 500lbs of nitrogen and 250lbs of phosphorous from entering Seneca Lake. Seneca Lake is an AA drinking water source for over 100,000 residents. Conserving soil and its associated nutrients is crucial to promote and protect the water quality of Seneca Lake and to reduce the occurrence of harmful algae blooms (HAB's).

This piece of equipment will be utilized on Lakewood Vineyards, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, Atwater Estate Winery, and Forge Wine Cellars. The machine will be used as a demonstration to showcase its potential and to replicate its use to vineyards throughout the region and throughout Seneca Lake Watershed. Not only will the machine have a significant impact on the reduction of sediment and its associated nutrients, but it will also allow for a significant reduction in herbicide use over that 250 acre area.

“This is a great opportunity for our Soil and Water Conservation District our Vineyards, and our Community,” said Jerry Verrigni, District Manager Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District. “We work diligently to implement nearly 80 on the ground conservation projects a year to protect water quality, but the funding to purchase innovative equipment to aid in the implementation of those conservation projects and water quality protection is very difficult to find. This project wouldn't be possible without the generous support from Cargill, Inc. and the partnership with our vineyards,” said Verrigni.



Picture Left to Right

Chris King Vineyard Manager Atwater Estate Vineyards, Dave Stamp Owner Lakewood Vineyards, Quinn Stamp Self Proclaimed Wine Manager of Lakewood Vineyards, Rick Rainey Owner Forge Wine Cellars, Keith Klug Plant Manager Cargill, Inc., Jerry Verrigni District Manager Schuyler County Soil and Water, Ted Marks Owner Atwater Estate Vineyards.