



Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District

Vineyard Management Innovation

The Schuyler County SWCD was able to secure funding to purchase an under the vine mower in a demonstration effort with multiple vineyards in the County. Row middle management is a key to limiting erosion on our steep vineyard soils. Our vineyards utilize cover crops, as well as mulch to help maintain permanent cover in the vineyard row. However, it has always been difficult to limit competition with the grape vine itself. This has traditionally been achieved with the use of herbicides. The under the vine mower has provided a mechanical means to help reduce and in some cases eliminate the need for herbicides to manage competition within the vine row. Over 250 acres were managed with this mower this year and the project has already seen expansion from an additional vineyard purchasing its own mower. We feel this is a project that could be expanded throughout the watershed and have a significant reduction in herbicide usage.

