

Ohio's wine and grape industry contributes \$786 million to the local economy.



Nick Ferrante checks his vineyards in Ashtabula County. The winter of 2013-14 devastated his crop. But OARDC research offers hope for recovery.

Serving, growing Ohio's grape and wine industry

The “polar vortex” winter of 2013–2014 hit Ohio's wine grapes hard. Nick Ferrante knows it. The owner of Geneva's Ferrante Winery lost his entire 2014 vinifera crop. And he wasn't alone. Ohio grape growers estimated their vinifera losses at 97 percent, and officials expected damage to all the state's grape varieties to top \$12 million. Vinifera, or European, grapes go into such wines as Chardonnay.

“This was probably the worst grape damage on record in Ohio,” said Imed Dami, who works to help growers recover from that damage and reduce or prevent it in the future.

As leader of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center's viticulture, or grape-growing, research, Dami studies, for example, new grape varieties' cold hardiness and how to prune winter-damaged vines. Then he shares his findings for growers to use — a sustained flow of new science-based knowledge that Ferrante calls “a great asset to the industry.”

More: go.osu.edu/GrowingGrapes



Imed Dami

“Imed Dami's research has impacted all of Ohio's vineyards, especially in the Grand River Valley, which produces some of the state's finest vinifera wines and has won many prestigious awards. We've used many of Imed's strategies to improve vine health, yields and wine quality.” — Nick Ferrante, owner, Ferrante Winery, Geneva, Ohio

ESSENTIALS

- OARDC's grape and wine research program is the only long-term, university-backed research program serving Ohio's grape and wine industry.
- Ohio's grape and wine industry has a \$786 million annual economic impact, a figure that has grown by a third in just the past six years.
- The industry created 1,200 new jobs during that growth and now supports more than 5,000 full-time jobs.
- Following last winter's devastation, Dami has taught an ongoing state-wide workshop series on pruning winter-damaged vines. The goal is to return Ohio grape growers to full production as soon as possible.
- Dami and colleagues do extensive research on improved grape production methods. Field trials take place in Wooster, at OARDC's Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station in Kingsville and in vineyards of cooperating growers.
- Dami has attracted nearly \$3.4 million in grant support from industry and others since 2008.

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OARDC: A Leader in Agbioscience

ag·bi·o·sci·ence (ăg'bt'ō-sī'ens) *n.* the integration of scientific disciplines to address critical needs of food security, safety and health; environmental sustainability; and biobased energy, fuel and products



**Food Security, Production,
and Human Health**



**Environmental Quality
and Sustainability**



**Advanced Bioenergy
and Biobased Products**

Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

As the research arm of The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) employs nearly 650 scientists and staff members throughout the state.

Ohio State's Wooster campus is the largest agbioscience research facility in the U.S. OARDC scientists work closely with researchers in Ohio State's Colleges of Education and Human Ecology, Medicine, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, Biological Sciences and Engineering.

At any given time, OARDC researchers are engaged in nearly 400 research projects. Primary focus is in three signature areas:

- Advanced Bioenergy and Biobased Products
- Environmental Quality and Sustainability
- Food Security, Production, and Human Health

The Ohio General Assembly established OARDC as the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in 1882. It is supported by a line-item appropriation from the Ohio General Assembly, competitive grants, gifts, contracts, federal grants and other sources. OARDC uses these funds to provide direct research support and economic development for Ohio's annual \$100+ billion agbioscience industry. OARDC is not funded by student tuition or any other general funds of The Ohio State University.

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