



Cornell University
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

[Home](#) / [News & Events](#) / [2003 Releases](#)

Pictures are linked to hi-res scans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2003

Contact: [Linda McCandless](#), 315-787-2417

**Grape Genetics Research Center
in line for \$2.7 million in funding**

GENEVA, NY: Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford) announced \$2.7 million in funding for the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Research Center at a press conference at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station today. The funding would be used to design and build a new federal research facility for USDA scientists to work with Cornell University researchers in establishing and coordinating a national, concentrated grape program that maximizes the impact of grape research.

"These funds will establish the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Center as the anchor tenant in the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park at Geneva," said James E. Hunter, director of the Experiment Station. "Having this facility located at the park will result in the construction of the park's second building and pave the way for further development."

Hunter praised Congressmen Sherwood Boehlert, James Walsh, Maurice Hinchey, and State Senator Mike Nozzolio as key members of the New York delegation who were instrumental in making this award possible. "I congratulate them for their vision that investments in science and technology are important drivers of the upstate New York economy," said Hunter.

"The tremendous opportunity I've been given to serve this district for the last 21 years also provides New York State the seniority in Washington needed to bring this funding home," Boehlert said. "I'm proud of the efforts Cornell has put forward to improve the agriculture industry. This funding will go a long way toward energizing the grape industry here in New York which will reap immeasurable benefits for our local grape growers."

The funding was part of Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations spending bill passed by the House of Representatives on Monday, Dec. 8. In addition to the \$2.7 million in funding for the Cornell Grape Genetics Research Center, the bill included \$3.55 million in funding for other area projects. The Senate is expected to pass the bill early next year.

The Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park is a research park for innovation and enterprise in the Finger Lakes devoted to food, agriculture and bio-based technologies. It is located on a 74-acre orchard adjacent to the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Groundbreaking for the first building—a



20,000 sq. ft. incubator building— is slated for spring 2004. Expected in the future are additional build-to-suit facilities like the Grape Genetics Research Center, a multi-tenant research facility, and greenhouse. The completed project could take 15 years for full build-out and could result in as many as 1000 new high-tech jobs.

Prospective tenants in the park, from government research labs to private businesses, will benefit from the research and development expertise at Cornell University and the Experiment Station.

The Grape Genetics Research Center will expand the activities of scientists at the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit (PGRU) currently located at the Experiment Station, who collaborate with the more than 20 researchers at Cornell conducting research in grape breeding, cultivation, crop protection and enology (wine science).

The PGRU was formed in 1986, and has national responsibility for certain vegetable crops, as well as apple, tart cherry, and cold-hardy grape. The PGRU is mandated to acquire, maintain, characterize, evaluate, document, and distribute the genetic resources of crops. <<http://www.ars-grin.gov/aen/>>

The Experiment Station was founded in 1882. Its mission is to advance a sustainable plant agriculture and food system through state-of-the art research and extension programs that address local and worldwide needs. Geneva supports New York's agriculture and food industries with research, extension and education programs. <<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu>>

###

Search all **NYSAES** press releases

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Academics](#) | [Commodity & Diagnostic Help](#) | [Departments & Units](#)
[News & Events](#) | [Public Outreach](#) | [Publications](#) | [Station Life](#)

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, 630 West North Street, Geneva, New York 14456
Telephone: 315.787.2011



Last Modified: December 11, 2003
Comments to: [webfeedback](#)



GENEVA
NEW YORK

New York State
Agricultural Experiment Station

