



The GRAPEVINE

NEWS FROM UNION GROVE FARM

Welcome to our inaugural neighborhood update from Union Grove Farm (UGF): **The Grapevine**. We are pleased to share all the latest news from our vineyard. We will work to send this out bi-monthly, but if you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact us directly at m@ug.farm.



It's Harvest Time!

We are excited to be harvesting our amazing grapes at UGF, and we've started selling our **RazzMatazz grapes at Weaver Street Market** in Carrboro. These petite, thin-skinned muscadine grapes have a sweet flavor and are delicious with wine and cheese or just snack out of the box.

We are also harvesting our own NEW UGF proprietary grape we're calling 'Honeysuckle'. It's a beautiful golden, seedless muscadine grape with a rich flavor. **Stop by the farm to give any of our new varieties a try.**

We anticipate **planting over 50 acres in Spring 2023**. That translates to about **17,000 plants** that will become new residents of Orange County, making us the third largest muscadine vineyard in North Carolina.

Maple View Farm

How incredible it is to see the evolution of Maple View Farm as it undergoes a metamorphosis from a dairy to a beautiful regenerative vineyard. You may have seen the gorgeous sunflowers we planted across from Maple View Farm



Ice Cream and in front of the farmhouse. Those fields helped to raise hundreds of dollars in donations for **Kids Path of AuthoraCare**. If you missed the opportunity to give, please considering donating to this very valuable cause.

It's not just all grapes and sunflowers! Lots of hard work has been going on inside the farm buildings to make structural changes to support all of our regenerative farm activities.

Under the direction of Dr. Laura Kavanaugh, PhD, we have built a **NEW vermiculture lab** to drive the fertility of our grape fields. We are using biology and 10,000 worms to help our grapes grow rather than using chemicals. In addition, we have completed rebuilding the mechanical shop at MVF which helps to streamline our operations.

We recently purchased the distillery equipment from TOPO Distillery in Chapel Hill and plan to begin distilling spirits next year at the Maple View location. Substantial work has gone into improving the primary building where the distillation will occur.

Hill Top Farm at Union Grove

We have finished renovating and rebuilding the old log farmhouse at the top of the hill behind the event barn and have completed the work of building our new 3-acre irrigation pond. It will be breathtaking when we finish planting, but the farm ground will continue to be a work-in-progress – turning rocks and clay into beautiful, fertile soil.

Tree Farm Road

We will return to working on our Tree Farm Road site after we finish doing updates at Maple View Farm. Likely this coming winter, we will continue to rebuild the soils along the front road.

Welcome Dane Jensen

We are thrilled to have Dane join us from Tablas Creek Vineyard, where he led their livestock integration program, primarily in-vineyard sheep (yes, a real shepherd), and oversaw regenerative operations. He will lead farming operations here at Union Grove.

If you see us out and about, please say hello. We're so glad to be a part of this awesome community and believe we are making a difference in the world. Thanks for putting up with the construction disruption.

It's always a grape day at Union Grove Farm! 🍷