Poster Abstract

In 2009, a grape community of practice (GCoP) was formed with eXtension (www.extension.org) as the hosting entity. The ultimate goal of the GCoP is to become a comprehensive online resource for research-based information by providing viticulturists access to content addressing all aspects of grape production. More than 650 pages of content have been created through a peer-reviewed process. Translation of articles from English into Spanish is also a priority to increase accessibility to vineyard workers and international information seekers. The eXtension platform allows for unique interactive technologies such as ‘Ask an Expert’, where growers can ask a question and have it answered within a short period. Future content will focus on learning modules, videos, webinars, certificate courses, smartphone applications, and other technologies. The GCoP also launched a companion portal site to www.eXtension.org/grapes in 2011 called www.eViticulture.org, which leads users directly to viticulture related information on the www.eXtension.org site without the need to navigate through other unrelated content. The Grapes CoP is currently comprised of a North America-based group of professionals with expertise in commercial grape production. To date, the GCoP has 66 members from 29 states and Canada, who interact through a variety of online methods to collaboratively create content on the eXtension site. The GCoP intends to be inclusive rather than exclusive with other disciplines and is interested in including any interested participant. The group is funded by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)-Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI) grant and considered a national priority by the National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI).