



MOBILE WEATHER DISPLAY & ALERT

The Sonoma County Winegrape Commission in conjunction with Western Weather Group has introduced a new weather alert monitoring system. The weather alert monitoring system will use data from the Campbell Scientific automated weather stations. Depending on the weather station's communications capability, data will be collected on a 15-minute or hourly basis 24-hours per day. Users will be assigned a username and password for a web site where they can enter their email address and/or SMS text address. The user will also select the following:

1. Data from specific stations to be displayed (e.g. temperature, wind speed, rainfall, etc.)
2. Alarm parameters (e.g. air temperature below 36°F)

When the alarm parameter is reached (i.e. air temperature below 36°F) an email or SMS text message will be issued to the user's cellular phone. For mobility, the set-up and display of the weather data and alarm settings are all designed to be viewed and edited on a Smart Phone. The new service is ready for growers this 2011 frost season. To request a username and password to use the new Mobile Alert Monitoring Service contact the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission at info@sonomawinegrape.org.

WEATHER STATIONS IMPROVE FROST FORECASTS

Automated weather stations in the vineyard help meteorologists initialize and verify the forecasts allowing a continual improvement in skill. To issue a site-specific frost forecast, real-time weather data are required from the location. While several new weather stations were installed in the county in 2010, more weather stations are needed to improve the forecast accuracy or in some cases allow a site-specific forecast to be made for a remote location. Growers in a specific growing region can pool their resources to purchase a single weather station and locate it in an area representative of their district. Data from the weather station will then be used for the frost forecast for that district. Individual growers may also be possible to get matching funds from USDA EQIP program for 2012 installations.

The Campbell Scientific automated weather stations provide a great deal of flexibility. Data from the Campbell Scientific weather stations in Sonoma County are shared on the SCWC weather web page where the data can be accessed via an interactive weather database. Users can view the data for a specified time period in a tabular or graphical format and the data can be downloaded to a user's local PC in an Excel, PDF or CSV file format.

The Campbell Scientific weather station data can be used year-round for spray operations, irrigation scheduling, grape powdery mildew index, growing degree-days, rainfall totals and other vineyard agronomic decisions. The data from the Campbell Scientific weather stations will also be used in the new Mobile Weather & Alert system that will be available through the SCWC.