



NAPA VALLEY GRAPEGROWERS BEST PRACTICES - BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR -

Prepared by the Napa Valley Viticulture & Environmental Stewardship Committee

The Napa Valley Grapegrowers promotes sustainable farming practices throughout Napa Valley and to support that goal, the NVG Viticulture & Environmental Stewardship Committee regularly produces best practice papers related to various aspects of our industry. Even though Napa is a “Right to Farm” county, one of the most important components of sustainable farming is being a good neighbor. Each one of us represents the Napa Valley wine industry in our daily practices on site. Here are some ideas about being a good rural neighbor:

Get to know your immediate neighbors. Invite your neighbors over for a tour of your vineyard and a glass of wine. Help them understand and appreciate what you do, when you do it, and why. Encourage your neighbors to call or email if they have any concerns or questions. Let your neighbors know what is going on ... communication is everything.

Minimize wind machine noise during frost season. If you use wind machines, avoid installing noisy machines near your neighbors. In addition, start them as late as possible and stop them as early as possible. It’s the right thing to do and it will save you money.

Give your neighbors advance notice on any night-time spraying or harvesting activities. Night-time activities can be noisy and disruptive, so let your neighbors know when you are scheduling them and explain the benefits of having them done at night. In addition, plan your night-time activities so that you can avoid performing them right next to your neighbors in the middle of the night.

Minimize the use of lights at night, especially during harvest. It is hard for anyone to sleep when it feels like daylight, so, if you harvest at night, locate your harvest staging area and direct all lights away from your neighbors to the extent possible.

Follow Napa County’s [Customs and Standards for Propane Cannons](#). No more than one propane cannon is permitted per five acres. Cannons may not run all night or all day long, and in areas with immediate neighbors, they must be a minimum of 600 feet from a residence or animal enclosure.

Invite them to attend Afternoon in the Vineyards and meet other vineyard owners, who will be hosting open houses on their properties. More information on this annual event can be found at napagrowers.org/events, or NVG would be happy to send them a special invitation at your request.

Introduce yourself to new neighbors when they move into the neighborhood. Explain the annual events in farming and the activities that can happen at different parts of the year. Talk to them about the history of your part of the Valley, and highlight the outstanding vineyards represented there. Welcome them to join you in supporting an industry that focuses on quality and sustainability!

www.napagrowers.org

To cultivate viticultural excellence and environmental stewardship for the Napa Valley

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