

SAMPLE Farm Letter to editor about reporting error

March 18, 2007

Kathy Wakeman
Editor, Syracuse Times Journal

Dear Ms. Wakeman:

The March 16, 2007 article about vineyards in the Finger Lakes by reporter Fred Krilhouse misrepresented several facts and omitted information that would have provided a more balanced portrayal of crop protectants in grape farming. I would like to request a follow-up article or other feature that would provide more appropriate information for the public.

The article cited “chemicals usually drift toward the house while windows are open.” In fact, our farm uses only hooded spray nozzles. When the vines require a fungicide, our equipment shrouds the trellis with a spray barrier, eliminating the possibility of drift.

Second, we draw water from a private pond with an inspected pump and check valve for our spray water. The reporter omitted this fact when he wrote, “chemicals from sprayers can enter the pond and then flow through the stream where the children play.”

The reporter did try to contact me for the story but it was during a time when our farm operations were a very high priority and we did not have enough staff to allow me to get away for his questions. In the coming week, I am willing to schedule an appointment with you and the reporter to make sure the story is as complete as it needs to be. Please contact me using the information on the enclosed business card.

Sincerely,

Jake Frederick, Foster Lake Vineyard