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THREE-DAY WINE GRAPE SHORT COURSE OFFERED IN JUNCTION JAN. 12-14

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LUBBOCK – Those interested in commercial wine grape production and vineyard management should make plans now to attend a three-day Texas viticulture short course slated in January, 2005, courtesy of Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Tech University's Extended Studies.

The short course is set for Jan. 12-14, at the Texas Tech University Junction Center.

"This intensive three-day course is designed as a comprehensive study of principles and practices of commercial wine grape production in Texas," said Ed Hellman, Extension viticulture specialist based in Lubbock. Hellman holds a joint appointment with Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Tech University.

Viticulture specialists and faculty from Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston-Downtown will teach the short course.

Topics will include wine grape physiology, vineyard establishment and management, and pest management. A field trip to a local vineyard will provide hands-on experience in pruning practices and a discussion of vine-training methods.

Registration costs \$395 per person before Jan. 1, 2005 and \$450 thereafter. The fee includes course materials, two breakfasts, three lunches, two dinners and an evening wine social. Enrollment is limited to 50 participants on a first-come, first-enrolled basis, Hellman said.

"Those who attend will qualify to earn 2.1 Texas Tech University continuing education units and a certificate, and five hours of continuing education units for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide recertification," Hellman said.

There are several ways to register:

- Visit www.dce.ttu.edu/outreach/viticulture for online enrollment;
- Print and fax a completed registration form and credit card information to (806) 742-7277; or
- Call (806) 742-7200, ext. 222.

"Lodging is available on campus at the Junction Center, or off campus at several nearby motels. The short course fee does not cover lodging," Hellman said.

Lodging inquiries should go to Wanda Merchant at (830) 990-2717 or wanda.merchant@ttu.edu. Persons with disabilities who need additional services should call (830) 990-2717, ext. 232, one week in advance of the short course.