

ANDREAS BOOSS\*

## **Vineyard Demarcation, Vineyard Register, Vineyard Index, Geographic Classification**

In Hesse, vine grapes may only be planted within defined units of land (as of 1984), the so-called exactly demarcated vineyards (except where the 100 m<sup>2</sup> regulation applies, according to article 3 of the Wine Act (WA)).

Article 7 of the Wine Law (WL) and article 3 of the Wine Act prohibit the planting of new vineyards. The minimum requirements for obtaining permission to establish a vineyard are subject to stringent control. For example, the potential vineyard must be capable of producing quality wine and the owner must ensure that the wine can be marketed. The relevant authority bases its decision concerning the suitability of the land after reviewing the findings of an expert committee (Paragraph 7 WL, Paragraph 3 – 7 WA, Paragraph 5 of the Wine Law regulatory statutes of Hesse).

According to Paragraph 4, EU Regulation No. 1493/1999, a previous vineyard may be re-established within 13 years of a properly recorded

clearing. In Hesse this right to re-establish a vineyard may be transferred to another parcel of land within a holding. Article 6 of the WL also permits the transfer of this right to another holding within a wine-growing area if “this serves to promote the quality of the wine or if the wine growing capability of the new parcel of land is at least equivalent to the previous parcel” (article 4 of the Wine Law regulatory statutes of Hesse).

An exactly demarcated vineyard can be further differentiated into:

- Potential area for growing wine (PW)
- The permitted area for growing wine (= area presently under cultivation + area with permit for growing wine)
- Area under cultivation (= young vineyard area+ harvested area)
- Harvested area (HA) (= vineyard area, from second harvest onwards after planting (article 2 No. 7 WL).

### **Exemplary calculation of HA:**

Period wine year (WY): August 1 – July 31 (Art. 1, Section 4 of EU Regulation No. 1493/1999).

Planted on May 2, 2000:

First WY after planting=

August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001

Second WY after planting =

August 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002

After this date the area counts as HA and is included in the calculation of the total yield per hectare of the holding (e.g. 4.3250 ha

x 100 hl/ha = 432.5 hl). The present yield per hectare for the wine growing regions in Hesse “Rheingau” and “Hessische Bergstrasse” is 100 hl.

The total yield per hectare is defined as the maximum volume of grapes and grape products that a holding may sell in one year from a single harvest. Surplus yields may be stored and sold in low yield years.

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\* Dr. A. Booß (e-mail: a.booss@rpda.hessen.de), Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt, Dezernat Weinbauamt Eltville, Wallufer Straße 19, D-65343 Eltville.

**Examples:**

1. Surplus yields:

A holding produces grapes from a vineyard covering 1 ha and is permitted to sell 100 hl/ha per year. In 1998/1999 the harvest amounted to 120 hl. The remaining 20 hl are stored. In 1999/2000 the vineyard only yields 80 hl. The holding may then sell the surplus 20 hl from the previous harvest (80 hl + 20 hl = 100hl).

2. Low yield

A holding produces grapes from a vineyard covering 1 ha and is permitted to sell 100 hl/ha per year. In 1998/1999 the harvest amounted to 70 hl and 130 hl in 1999/2000. The “underproduction” from 1998/1999 cannot be transferred – it is forfeited.

As of the harvest in 2000 (= WY 2000/2001) the stored volume of surplus yield has been restricted to 20 % per harvest for the two wine growing regions in Hesse. All excess must be converted to industrial alcohol by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December of the following year.

In a meeting held in Dublin in 1984, the Council of the European Union agreed to compile a vineyard register. According to Article 64a of EU Regulation No. 337/79 in the revised EU Regulation No. 775/85 (today Article 20 of EU Regulation No. 1493/1999) concerning the organization of the wine market, the Council of the European Union was obligated to issue general regulations concerning the introduction of a vineyard register for the Community.

The council fulfilled this obligation by issuing EU Regulation 2392/86 on July 24, 1986, which outlines the purpose of the register to document the data concerning the production potential and development within the community. The information contained in the register shall contribute to the smooth functioning of the joint market organization for wine. The consolidation of all recorded information into one register is also important in this context.

For economic and technical reasons, all member states with a total vineyard area less than

500 ha according to Article 1, such as Belgium and Holland, are exempt from the register.

Article 2 specifies the basic structure of the Vineyard Register. According to this, the register is divided into a production and a holding file.

**Production and holding file**

The holding file lists every holding currently managing land for growing wine. The most important details recorded in the register are:

- Identity and location of the holding
- The parcels of land planted with vines divided into management status (fallow, young vineyard, producing vineyard, abandoned vineyard, variety, age) and type of ownership (leased, property).

The production file encompasses the processing and marketing of viticultural products and the registration instructions. In both cases the information shall not be made available to third parties (data privacy protection).

A period of 6 years was stipulated for completing the register, which was met by the School of Viticulture within the Agency of Viticulture and the authorities commissioned by the federal state for the task. Since the introduction of the Vineyard Register, the data for the entire wine-growing area of Hesse has been recorded electronically.

The rules for establishing the vineyard register are specified in the Commission Regulation 649/87.

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2392/86 distinguishes between obligatory information and optional information, which each member state may choose to provide (App. I, Commission Regulation 649/87). The state of Hesse has opted to provide only the obligatory data. The optional information comprises the planted rootstock varieties, as well as the owner of the holding. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that other data may be of interest to all. For example, the natural conditions such as slope gradient (demarcation of steep vineyards) or water protection areas.

From the start, the Office of Viticulture and School of Viticulture in Eltville has endeavored

to reduce the workload for the winegrowers to a bare minimum, by collecting as much data as possible from other sources. This data was presented in compliance with strict privacy data protection regulations to each individual holding for correction and completion by the owners. We are grateful to the State Surveying Agency and the subordinate offices and all others who worked together to complete the vineyard register.

The quick completion of a functional register was only made possible by the dedicated work (including many evening sessions) carried out by the staff of the Agency of Viticulture.

According to the previously mentioned "Vineyard Register Regulation" the register must be updated at regular intervals. To comply with this regulation, the Federal State of Hesse provides each holding with an extract from the register once a year for assessment. Since only the registered areas are used for calculating the total production per hectare, it is vitally important for owners to register any changes. Failure to do so will also result in consequences in relation to the Wine Law.

The holding file is the basis for the production file, merchandizing as well as all other registrations and activities.

### **Vineyard index**

The register is also the basis for the vineyard index. This comprises an "index of all vineyards (individual sites or combination of sites) and districts (a collective of vineyards) with maps depicting the position of vineyards and districts" (Paragraph 1 of the Vineyard Index Regulations). "The Agency for Viticulture shall have the final decision, after hearing a board of experts, in

matters pertaining to applications for entry in the Vineyard Index. The board shall put forward statements concerning the economic viability of the site or district demarcation and decide whether such a demarcation serves to preserve the specific character of said vineyards" (Paragraph 2 of the Vineyard Index Regulations). "Where feasible, the vineyard boundaries shall coincide with public roads or tracks, field margins, water channels, or community boundaries" (Rules concerning the implementation of the Vineyard Index Regulations). The exact position of the vineyard is marked on a map. Each viticultural community organizes a vineyard committee whose task it is to provide the community with recommendations and advice (paragraph 4 of the Regulations). The Rules of Implementation also gives details on the structure of the committees.

Wines from a **particular wine-growing region**, the so-called Qualitätswein b. A. or Qualitätsschaumwein b. A. are provided with an additional geographical designation. In Hesse this would be "Rheingau" or "Hessische Bergstrasse", where the vineyard area is distributed among 12 and 9 towns and communities respectively (Demarcation rules according to the Wine Laws of Hesse). Another, more specific designation of origin is the **district** which consists of several collective vineyards (Grosslage). In the Rheingau, the district is called "Bereich Johannisberg". In the Hessische Bergstrasse there are two districts "Starkenbourg" and "Umstadt". There are 12 **collective vineyards** in the Rheingau and 3 in the Bergstrasse. The smallest geographical unit is the **individual site** or vineyard, of which 119 are recorded in the Rheingau and 24 in the Bergstrasse (Table 2 and 3).

The two wine-growing regions in Hesse, “Rheingau” and “Hessische Bergstrasse” belong to the smaller German wine-growing regions, comprising just 3.6 % of the total vineyard area in Germany. The Rheingau is ranked number 8, the Bergstrasse number 11 of the 13 German wine-growing regions.

The potential vineyard area is distributed over 75000 lots or cadastral units. Since individual lots are often divided into smaller patches (especially community patches) the number increases to approx. 80000 “data units”, which must all be organized in the vineyard register.

Table 1 shows that the potential vineyard area is significantly higher in both regions than the actual vineyard area (in production). This indicates that there is a large potential for growth in both areas. However, the current vineyard area is not

**Tab. 1.** Distribution of vineyards in both wine-growing regions in Hesse

Distribution	Rheingau [ha]	Bergstrasse [ha]	Hesse [ha]
Potential vineyard area	4 152	761	4 913
Current vineyard area*	3 167	444	3 611
Vineyard area- (in production)*	3 102	428	3 530
Fallow vineyard area*	985	317	1 302
* Dated July 31, 2003			

likely to be expanded since planting rights have not been granted for the potential areas.

## **Index of referenced Laws and Regulations**

Hessische weinrechtliche Abgrenzungsverordnung vom 14. Juni 1983 GVBl. I: 78 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

Weingesetz vom 16. Mai 2001 BGBl. I, Nr. 25: 985 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

Neufassung der Weinverordnung vom 14. Mai 2002 BGBl. I, Nr. 31: 1583 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

Sechste Verordnung zur Änderung der Hessischen Ausführungsverordnung zum Weingesetz vom 16. Oktober 2003 GVBl. I: 78

EG VO Nr. 1493/1999 vom 17. Mai 1999 ABL. Nr. 179 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

EG VO Nr. 1227/2000 vom 31. Mai 2000 ABL. Nr. 143 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

EG VO Nr. 1282/2001 vom 29. Juni 2001 ABL. Nr. 176 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

EG VO Nr. 2392/1986 vom 24. Juli 1986 ABL. Nr. 208 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

EG VO Nr. 649/1987 vom 03. März 1987 ABL. Nr. 62 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

Gesetz über die Weinbergsrolle vom 07. Oktober 1970 GVBl. I: 543 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

Verordnung zur Durchführung des Gesetzes über die Weinbergsrolle vom 11. November 1970 GVBl. I: 706 in der jeweils gültigen Fassung

**Tab. 2.** Vineyard demarcation index of the Rheingau (Feb. 2004)

<b>administrative regions</b>	<b>collective vineyards</b>	<b>collective vineyard assigned parish</b>	<b>vineyard</b>	<b>vineyard assigned parish</b>
Lorchhausen	Burgweg	Rüdesheim or Lorch	Rosenberg Seligmacher	Lorchhausen
Lorch	Burgweg	Rüdesheim or Lorch	Schlossberg Kapellenberg Krone Pfaffenwies Bodental-Steinberg	Lorch
Aulhausen	Steil	Assmannshausen	Höllenberg	Assmannshausen
Assmannshausen	Steil	Assmannshausen	Frankenthal Höllenberg Hinterkirch	Assmannshausen
Rüdesheim	Burgweg	Rüdesheim or Lorch	Berg Kaisersteinfels Berg Roseneck Berg Rottland Berg Schlossberg Bischofsberg Drachenstein Kirchenpfad Klosterberg Klosterlay Magdalenenkreuz Rosengarten	Rüdesheim
Eibingen	Burgweg	Rüdesheim or Lorch	Klosterberg Klosterlay Magdalenenkreuz Kirchenpfad	Rüdesheim
Geisenheim	Burgweg	Rüdesheim or Lorch	Fuchsberg Mäuerchen Mönchspfad Rothenberg Klosterberg	Geisenheim  Rüdesheim
Geisenheim	Erntebringer	Johannisberg	Schlossgarten Kilzberg Kläuserweg Klaus	Johannisberg
Johannisberg	Erntebringer	Johannisberg	Kläuserweg Goldatzel Hansenberg Hölle Klaus Mittelhölle Schwarzenstein Vogelsang	Geisenheim Johannisberg
Winkel	Erntebringer	Johannisberg Johannisberg Johannisberg Johannisberg Johannisberg	Dachsberg Gutenberg Hasensprung Jesuitengarten Schlossberg Klaus	Winkel   Johannisberg

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<b>administrative regions</b>	<b>collective vineyards</b>	<b>collective vineyard assigned parish</b>	<b>vineyard</b>	<b>vineyard assigned parish</b>
Mittelheim	Erntebringer	Johannisberg Johannisberg Johannisberg	St. Nikolaus Edelmann Goldberg	Mittelheim
Oestrich	Gottesthal	Oestrich	Klosterberg Lenchen Doosberg Klosterberg	Oestrich
	Mehrhölzchen	Hallgarten		Oestrich
Hallgarten	Mehrhölzchen	Hallgarten	Hendelberg Jungfer Schönhell Würzgarten	Hallgarten
Hattenheim	Deutelsberg	Hattenheim	Engelmannsberg Hassel Heiligenberg Mannberg Nussbrunnen Pfaffenberg Rheingarten Schützenhaus Wisselbrunnen Jungfer Hendelberg	Hattenheim          Hallgarten Hallgarten
Erbach	Honigberg	Erbach	Hohenrain Marcobrunn Michelmark Rheinhell Schlossberg Siegelsberg Steinmorgen Rheingarten no vineyard	Erbach
Erbach Erbach	Deutelsberg Honigberg	Hattenheim Erbach		Hattenheim Erbach
Kiedrich	Heiligenstock	Kiedrich	Sandgrub Wasseros Gräfenberg Klosterberg	Kiedrich
Eltville	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Langenstück Rheinberg Sonnenberg Taubenberg Kalbspflicht Steinmorgen Sandgrub	Eltville      Erbach Kiedrich
Rauenthal	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Baiken Wülfen Rothenberg Gehr Langenstück Nonnenberg	Rauenthal

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<b>administrative regions</b>	<b>collective vineyards</b>	<b>collective vineyard assigned parish</b>	<b>vineyard</b>	<b>vineyard assigned parish</b>
Martinsthal	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Rödchen Wildsau Langenberg	Martinsthal
Walluf	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Berg-Bildstock Langenstück Oberberg Vitusberg Walkenberg Gottesacker	Walluf
Frauenstein	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Herrnberg Marschall Homberg	Frauenstein
Schierstein	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Dachsberg Hölle Herrnberg	Schierstein Frauenstein
Dotzheim	Steinmächer	Rauenthal	Judenkirch	Dotzheim
Delkenheim	Daubhaus	Hochheim	Grub	Delkenheim
Wiesbaden	no collective vineyard		Neroberg	Wiesbaden
Kostheim	Daubhaus	Hochheim o. Kostheim	Weiss Erd St. Kiliansberg Steig	Kostheim
Kostheim	Daubhaus	Hochheim o. Kostheim	Berg Reichestal	Hochheim
Hochheim	Daubhaus	Hochheim	Reichstal Berg Stielweg Domdechaney Hölle Kirchenstück Hofmeister Königin Victoriaberg Stein Herrnberg	Hochheim
Flörsheim	Daubhaus	Hochheim	Herrnberg St. Anna Kapelle	Flörsheim
Massenheim	Daubhaus	Hochheim	Schlossgarten	Massenheim
Wicker	Daubhaus	Hochheim	König-Wilhelmsberg Mönchsgewann Nonnberg Stein	Wicker
Frankfurt	no collective vineyard		Lohrberger Hang	Frankfurt
Felsberg-Böddiger	no collective vineyard		Berg	Böddiger

**Tab. 3.** Vineyard demarcation index of the Hessian Bergstraße

<b>administrative regions</b>	<b>collective vineyards</b>	<b>collective vineyard assigned parish</b>	<b>vineyard</b>	<b>vineyard assigned parish</b>
Seeheim-Jugenheim	no collective vineyard		Mundklingen	Seeheim
Alsbach-Hähnlein	Rott	Auerbach	Schöntal	Alsbach
Auerbach	Rott	Auerbach	Höllberg Fürstenlager Alte Burg	Auerbach Zwingenberg
Zwingenberg	Rott	Auerbach	Alte Burg Steingeröll	Zwingenberg
Schönberg	Rott	Auerbach	Herrnwingert Fürstenlager	Schönberg Auerbach
Bensheim Bensheim	Rott Wolfsmagen	Auerbach Bensheim	Fürstenlager Hemsberg Kalkgasse Kirchberg Paulus Streichling	Auerbach Bensheim
Zell	Wolfsmagen	Bensheim	Streichling Hemsberg	Bensheim Bensheim
Gronau	Wolfsmagen	Bensheim	Hemsberg	Bensheim
Heppenheim	Schlossberg	Heppenheim	Steinkopf Stemmler Centgericht Eckweg Maiberg	Heppenheim
Unter Hambach	Schlossberg	Heppenheim	Maiberg Stemmler Steinkopf	Heppenheim
Erbach	Schlossberg	Heppenheim	Maiberg	Heppenheim
Rossdorf	no collective vineyard		Rosssberg	Rosssberg
Dietzenbach	no collective vineyard		Wingertsberg	Dietzenbach
Brensbach	no collective vineyard		Heilige Tanne	Brensbach
Klein-Umstadt	no collective vineyard		Stachelberg	Klein-Umstadt
Kleestadt	no collective vineyard		Stachelberg	Klein-Umstadt
Heubach	no collective vineyard		Herrnberg	Gross-Umstadt
Gross-Umstadt	no collective vineyard		Herrnberg	Gross-Umstadt
Gross-Umstadt	no collective vineyard		Steingerück	Gross-Umstadt
Dated: October 2004 Weinbaukartei des Landes Hessen beim RP-Darmstadt, Dezernat Weinbauamt Eitville				