

2018 Federal Agriculture Appropriations

The 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act, signed into law on March 23, provides funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture Programs important to the grape and wine industry

U.S. Department of Agriculture programs important to the grape and wine industry include grape research by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), plant pest and disease control through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), and the Market Access Program (MAP). Funding for these programs is provided annually—the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act provides funds for all of these programs through September 30, 2018.

The 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act also includes language that prohibits the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) from enforcing the Produce Safety Rules that affect winegrapes. This restriction is effective until September 2018. (more on this subject in the Issue Brief “Food Safety Modernization Act—Growers”).

What is Winegrowers doing for you?

Winegrowers, in coordination with other industry groups in Washington and California, worked to influence Congress to include funding for these important programs in the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Winegrowers also supported the Congressional language that prevents FDA from enforcing the Produce Safety Rules for winegrapes. Winegrowers advocacy included joint industry trips and letters to Washington D.C. Winegrowers will continue to advocate for permanent changes to the Produce Safety rules for winegrapes and will keep the membership informed.

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