



**AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.
STRONGER TOGETHER.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 21, 2018

Contact:

Ryan McLaughlin

312.969.0255

ryan@macstrategiesgroup.com

Specialty Crops Industry Sees Support from House Farm Bill

*House Farm Bill includes funding for specialty crop programs,
but the industry needs more to grow*

WASHINGTON, D.C – The [Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance](http://www.farmbillalliance.org) (SCFBA), representing over 120 specialty crop organizations across the United States, has released the following statement following the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of the Farm Bill:

The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance appreciates the efforts of Chairman Conaway and members of the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act, in a close 213-211 vote. The Alliance is pleased to see that many of the specialty crop provisions that were included in the 2014 Farm Bill have remained part of H.R. 2, including key specialty crop priorities such as:

- Specialty Crop Block Grants (\$85 million/year)
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (\$80 million/year)
- Trade Programs including MAP (\$200 million/year) and TASC (\$9 million/year)
- Pest and Disease Programs (\$75 million/year) and National Clean Plant Network (\$5 million/year)
- Food Insecurity and Nutrition Incentive Program (FINI) (Increased to \$285 million over five years)

The SCFBA further stated, "These funding commitments demonstrate the growing importance of the specialty crop industry in American agriculture, and the Alliance is grateful for their inclusion in the House legislation. However, more work needs to be done to support an industry that accounts for 30 percent to 40 percent of U.S. crop value. More than 120 organizations have come together to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop agriculture and improve the health of Americans. Together, we will continue to seek the support deserved of our growers, who work every day to provide better access to higher quality and more affordable fruits and vegetables."

--30--

*The **Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance** is a national coalition of more than 120 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products. The Alliance was established to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop agriculture and improve the health of Americans by broadening the scope of U.S. agricultural public policy. For more information, visit <http://www.farmbillalliance.org>.*