



WINEMAKING

Typical activities of winemaking companies that qualify for the R&D tax credit include:

- Ongoing design and development to subterranean wine cave improvements to increase the functionality of the caves
- Addressing challenges related to the optimal methodologies of production within wine barrel storage caves to optimize storage functionality
- Evaluating conditions included but not limited to, humidity, lighting, ventilation, temperature, and fermentation in barrels for wine production
- Research for future real estate acquisitions in order to increase wine production activities, overcoming uncertainty related to the capability of production for these lands and determining potential strains for implantation on these lots
- Evaluating the soils, water availability, slope, and aspect of properties to assess the potential for grape cultivation
- Ongoing design and develop improvements to wine bottling techniques/efficiency and determining the optimal method of filling bottles
- Investigating method improvements to packaging materials and counter-pressure filling technological developments
- Evaluating varied methods of filtration to prevent microbial spoilage to increase wine quality
- Performing assessments of various screw cap liner materials to determine the effect on package integrity and product quality after bottling
- Developing improvements to bottle labeling materials and facing issues regarding developing final designs of new labels
- Utilizing and optimizing various systems to monitor, control, and record fermentation processes which improve economic efficiency
- Experimenting with new automated tanks to improve both efficiency and precisions of winemaking practices during fermentation
- Experimenting with equipment through trials to assess and then purchase automated sorting and crushing equipment
- Assessing trials with in-place barrel washing systems in order to increase labor efficiency and barrel hygiene
- Developing land for optimum cultivation of various grape stains
- Evaluating numerous clones of different production stains to develop selection based on quality and production criteria
- Development of unique or customized canopies to protect the fruit from environmental conditions that are compatible with mechanical pruning and harvesting processes
- Assessing the vineyard to determine the optimal row orientation and block layouts
- Designing and implementing trellis improvements by integrating various support systems and shoot positioning
- Designing new cross arms for structural support and additional wiring to increase rigidity of structures
- Assessing different alternatives and equipment to prevent frost damage on new growth: orchard heaters, sprinkler frost protectors, wind machines
- Overcoming challenges related to the optimal method of preventing soil-bourne disease in the grapes and reducing spread of disease and other parasites
- Evaluating water sources, testing for contaminants and developing potential solutions to meet production goals
- Assessing varieties, rootstocks, and vine density of the proposed crop
- Testing soil characteristics related to moisture content, grade sloping, and permeability

How the R&D Tax Credit Works for You

Research and Development Tax Credits are available to a wide variety of industries at both the Federal, and in most cases, the state level. The incentives are designed to encourage U.S. companies to maintain their competitive advantages through continued innovation and improvements. The credit applies to a number of areas within your business including some salaries, materials, and contract services for qualified activities.

R&D Minimum Requirements for Eligibility:

1. The project must be intended to be useful in the development of a new or improved business component, such as a product, process technique, formula, invention, or software.
2. The project must be undertaken for the purpose of discovering information that is technical in nature. Thus, the activity must rely on the principles of physical sciences, such as engineering, biology, or computer science.
3. The project must be intended to eliminate uncertainty related to the development or improvement of a business component. Uncertainty can include capability, development method, or optimal design of the business component.
4. The project must evaluate one of more alternative solutions through the development, refinement, and testing of different options.

