



National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

WHO IS NASDA?

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association which represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories.

WHAT DOES NASDA DO?

NASDA grows and enhances agriculture by forging partnerships and creating consensus to achieve sound policy outcomes between state departments of agriculture, the federal government, and stakeholders.

PARTNERSHIPS

Measuring Agriculture's Success.

NASDA employs over 3,000 enumerators to collect agricultural data in support of the mission of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This partnership began in 1972.

Creating New Markets for Small Business.

NASDA also conducts two trade shows through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Market Access Program (MAP). These shows are held annually in Chicago and Miami and attract buyers from around the world seeking American agricultural products.

A Preventive Approach to Food Safety.

In NASDA's program with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration we provide critical information to help plan and carry out implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). We are focused on produce safety and animal food preventive controls, in partnership with FDA and state regulatory agencies.

STATES

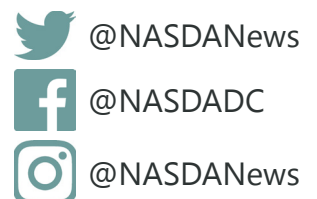
NASDA Members are the chief regulators and promoters of agriculture in their states. They manage a diverse portfolio of regulatory programs in their state including conservation, pollinator health, food safety, animal & plant health, and more. NASDA Members also develop new markets for farmers, ranchers, and value-added food producers both locally and abroad.

NASDA Members meet twice per year to discuss and vote on national priorities for the organization. Our Annual Meeting is led by the President in September of each year.

NASDA Members also meet annually with their counterparts from Mexico and Canada during the Tri-National Agricultural Accord.

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NASDA Policy Priorities

As the chief agriculture officials in their states, NASDA Members see first-hand the changing dynamics, increasing challenges, and exciting opportunities in agriculture. While there are a number of important policy issues facing agriculture, NASDA is especially focused on continuing to advance cooperative federalism, passage of the next Farm Bill, promoting international trade and harmonization, and successfully implementing FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in partnership with the states.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

NASDA continues to advance a more robust role for states on federal policy making. States are more than just stakeholders, we are partners with the federal government. NASDA members are responsible for implementing their own state programs as well as many federal programs. With enhanced consultation and resources for the states, we can work together to solve a number of challenges facing agriculture—from food safety, environmental challenges and economic vitality.



Agricultural producers, the rural economy, and communities of every size rely on a robust, forward looking, and fully funded Farm Bill. NASDA calls on Congress to craft, in a timely manner, a unified Farm Bill that provides farmers, ranchers, and consumers important tools and new opportunities.

NASDA's priorities focus on new tools and resources for animal disease coordination, enhanced funding for invasive species programs, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and the Market Access Program. The next farm bill should also provide investments in critical research, resources for farmers to comply with FSMA, and investments in flexible, locally-driven conservation practices.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Securing new export market access, ensuring a level international playing field, and fostering increased harmonization are vital to U.S. agriculture. Successfully modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement and negotiating new trade agreements, such as a much-needed Asia-Pacific trade agreement, are critical to creating markets and eliminating trade barriers for U.S. agricultural products. NASDA continues to advocate for trade agreements that expand market access and set strong rules of the road for international trade.

FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) implementation and funding for states continues to be a top priority for NASDA. We continue to work with the administration and Congress to make sure there are adequate resources for FSMA implementation—especially for the state programs charged with implementing these new requirements. On Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) training, our approach to helping producers bring their farms up to speed in an educational manner, is in the deployment stage. "Educate before you regulate," has become a key message for NASDA, and we will continue to focus on food safety for years to come.

Read more about our policy engagement and view our full spectrum of policy positions at www.nasda.org/policy.