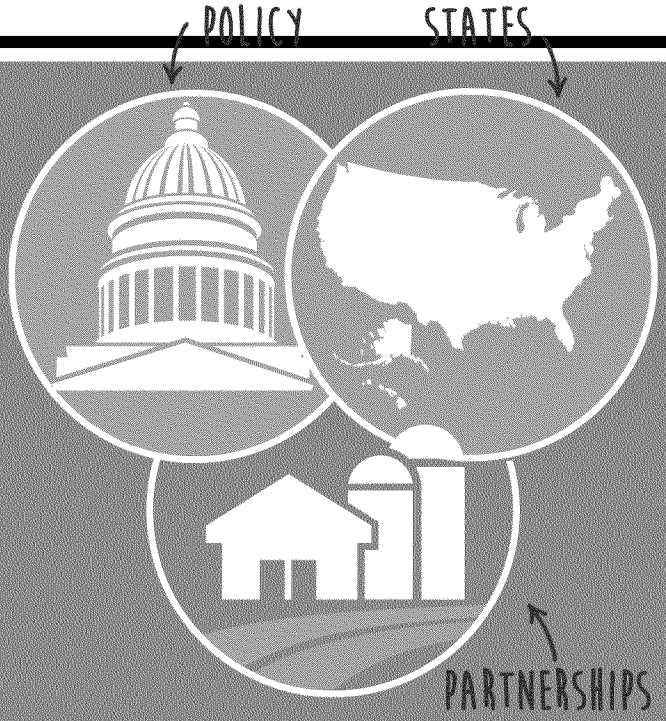
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture



WHO IS NASDA?

NASDA 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 col-lect agricultural data in support of the mission of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This partnership began in 1972.

Promoting Agriculture.
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.

Food Safety is a Priority.
NASDA's newest program is with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. It will enable NASDA to provide critical information to help plan and **carry out implementation of a national produce safety rule and the preventive controls for ani-**mal food rule, 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 regu-latory programs in their state including conser-vation, pollinator health, food safety, animal &** plant health, and more.

NASDA Members meet twice per year to discuss and vote on national priorities for the organiza-**tion. 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 are keenly aware of 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 the reinvigoration of cooperative federalism, implementation of the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), international trade, and the passage of the next Farm Bill.

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

NASDA encourages the Administration & Congress to make a commitment to Cooperative Federalism – a robust partnership and role for states in the federal policymaking process. States have a unique role in implementing both federal and state programs. A critical component of Cooperative Federalism is regulatory reform to ensure the states' unique roles are respected.

FOOD SAFETY

Proper implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is a major priority for NASDA. While FDA has a long history of enforcing food safety laws and reacting to outbreaks of public health significance, FSMA focuses on preventive controls and gives FDA new authority to regulate produce growers and many animal food producers for the first time. These new authorities will require robust cooperation with state and local regulatory agencies and long-term investment by Congress and the Administration into the financial resources for states for many years into the future.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Securing new export market access, ensuring a level international playing field, and fostering increased harmonization are vital to U.S. agriculture. Bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and 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.

FARM BILL

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 new Farm Bill that provides farmers and ranchers important tools and new opportunities. NASDA's priorities focus on 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, new tools and resources for animal disease coordination, and investments in flexible, locally-driven conservation practices.

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