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.

PUBLIC POLICY

NASDA continues to elevate our voice on the highest profile, most impactful agriculture and food policy issues. The NASDA Board of Directors established NASDA’s top priorities for the year at our 2018 Winter Policy Conference, which include: advancing cooperative federalism, passage of the next Farm Bill, promoting international trade and harmonization, and successfully implementing FDA’s Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

THE 2018 FARM BILL

Our seven Farm Bill priorities were established by NASDA Members at the 2017 Winter Policy Conference. 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.

Due to the hard work of our members and policy team, NASDA’s priorities are situated very well in both the House and Senate bills. We will continue to engage through the end of the conference period and still seek an on-time, bipartisan, and fully-funded Farm Bill.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The financial health of agriculture and rural America depend on international trade. NASDA Members have been heavily engaged throughout the year in advancing our international trade priority.

In May, NASDA hosted a trade fly-in where members met with the U.S. Trade Representative, the White House, USDA, and Commerce. The fly-in concluded in a press conference on the Hill with NASDA Members, U.S. Senators, and farmers participating. NASDA also facilitated a trade mission to Cuba to underscore the importance of new trade agreements to American agriculture.

POLICY TEAM SUCCESSES:

OVER 38 REGULATORY COMMENTS & LETTERS FILED

OVER 120 HILL VISITS ON NASDA PRIORITIES
FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

We continue to work towards implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) through policy engagement on definition of farm, agricultural water, and funding for FDA and the states.

NASDA FOUNDATION

The NASDA Foundation is growing a portfolio of projects that advance and amplify the work of NASDA Members. Over the past year, the NASDA Foundation:

• Awarded $60,000 in mini-grants to DE, MD, PA, NJ, and NY through the Invasive Pest Grant Program to help states combat invasive pests.
• Hosted the first-ever Farm to School Pre-Conference ahead of the 2018 NASDA Annual Meeting. The one-day conference included 46 participants from 26 states who shared best practices and training resources on how to help farmers and ranchers increase sales to schools.
• Created the Women’s Farm to Food Accelerator Program in partnership with Oregon and Washington state departments of agriculture. The program empowers women farmers in Oregon and Washington with food businesses to enter into new statewide and regional markets.

NASDA - FAS PARTNERSHIP

NASDA’s $4 million cooperative agreement with USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) continued to support NASDA’s activities helping U.S. food and beverage companies export their products.

NASDA - FDA PARTNERSHIP

This partnership includes the execution of two cooperative agreements with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dispute resolutions, guidance and training continue to be our top concerns for implementation of the Produce Safety Rule. Cooperative Agreement staff have spent extensive time in preparing the On-Farm Readiness Review tool, a voluntary and non-regulatory farmer tool for FSMA compliance. Live demonstrations of the tool were conducted in Oregon and North Carolina with great success. The Animal Food Model Implementation Framework will be released September 2018.

NASDA - NASS PARTNERSHIP

The NASDA-NASS cooperative program serves the need for high quality ag and rural data for the U.S. It ensures that farmers and ranchers have a voice in the future of rural communities and all of agriculture. Our enumerators have been busy collecting data for the 2017 Census of Agriculture and a number of other surveys critical to American agriculture.