International trade is a top priority for NASDA, as all NASDA members are responsible for promoting and marketing U.S. agricultural goods produced in their states. Our nation’s farmers and ranchers depend on exports to support their businesses and the rural economies connected to them. NASDA advocates for international trade through supporting ratification of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement. USMCA negotiations started in May 2017, and currently, the new agreement is waiting to be ratified by Congress. NASDA has conducted over 40 meetings on Capitol Hill and mailed letters to USTR, USDA and Congress to stress the importance of swiftly passing USMCA.

**USMCA TIMELINE**

- Negotiation
- Reporting & Debate
- Congressional Consideration
- Ratification
- Implementation

**OUTREACH & TEAMWORK**

- Conducted 40+ Capitol Hill meetings about trade
- Signed with 12 partners on letters about USMCA & trade with Japan
- Authorized & led industry letter on trade to Congress
- Sent three letters to the Administration
- Sent three coalition letters to Congress on USMCA + MAP & FMS funding
- Sustained engagement with USTR, USDA & the White House

**QUARTERLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Over the last quarter, the food and agriculture industry in D.C. has banded together to urge Congress to prioritize ratifying USMCA. NASDA has been a leader in these efforts by continuing bipartisan Hill outreach and authoring letters urging USMCA ratification. While we wait for the U.S. to finalize USMCA, Mexico has ratified their portion of the agreement and Canada has started their ratification process. NASDA will continue Hill and Administration facing USMCA advocacy efforts, and we remain optimistic for a vote before this fall.
NEW NETWORKS

NASDA’s policy team met with all of the 17 new members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. NASDA is proud to maintain these connections and a longstanding relationship with the U.S. Agriculture Committees.

ARIZONA
REP. ANN KIRKPATRICK

CALIFORNIA
REP. JOSH HARDER
REP. T.J. COX
REP. SALUD CARBAJAL

CONNECTICUT
REP. JAHANA HAYES

ILLINOIS
SEN. DICK DURBIN

INDIANA
REP. JIM BAIRD
SEN. MIKE BRAUN

IOWA
REP. CINDY AXNE

MINNESOTA
REP. ANGIE CRAIG
REP. JIM HAGEDORN

NEW JERSEY
REP. JEFF VAN DREW

NEW YORK
REP. ANTHONY BRINDISI
REP. ANTONIO DELGADO

SOUTH DAKOTA
REP. DUSTY JOHNSON

VIRGINIA
REP. ABIGAIL SPANBERGER

WASHINGTON
REP. KIM SCHRIER

NASDA’S VOICE IS HEARD

Also this quarter, NASDA sent 12 letters to Congress and the Administration and released several press releases on NASDA priorities. Unifying the states’ voice, NASDA spoke up on how to improve international trade, food safety, farmer mental health and several other priority issues. For a full copy of all letters and press releases, visit nasda.org.

“NASDA is grateful for the committee’s dedication to the states’ work on implementing new ways to keep food safe...The committee increased funding by $2 million to allot the maximum amount of $10 million for the Food Safety Outreach Program.”
- NASDA Press Release

“We urge the administration to negotiate a bilateral agreement with Japan that restores meaningful access for U.S. food and agriculture and expands opportunities in this important market.”
- Food & Ag Coalition to USTR

“NASDA is thrilled to see the Farmer & Rancher Stress Assistance Network fully funded at $10 million. ‘The services that the network provides are imperative during these especially trying times for agriculture.’”
- NASDA CEO Barb Glenn