WHO WE ARE
The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association that represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. As the chief agricultural official in their state, NASDA members ensure that agriculture and food production is safe, sustainable and profitable across the nation. As a representative of and voice for all American agriculture, NASDA encourages all types of agricultural production.

NASDA MISSION
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.

WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Counting for Impact
Since 1972, NASDA has partnered with USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service to employ over 3,000 individuals across the nation to collect data on agricultural production. This data, found in crucial reports such as the Census of Agriculture, is vital for the agriculture economy and reducing risk in production, marketing and distribution operations. This data also guides innovative research and is essential for making educated policy decisions at all levels of government.

A Preventive Approach to Food Safety
In NASDA’s program with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, NASDA develops resources for states to help plan and carry out implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act’s produce safety and animal food rules. Specifically, NASDA helps train farmers on the new produce safety rules and helps states implement proactive safety measures when processing animal and pet foods.

Showcasing America’s Best
NASDA’s cooperative agreement with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service’s Market Access Program markets American-grown products to international buyers. NASDA produces two annual nationwide trade shows that help small and medium size U.S. food and beverage companies export their products.
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Successfully implementing a modernized U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, securing new export market access, and fostering a stable trade policy environment are vital to U.S. agriculture. A regional trade agreement with Mexico and Canada along with new bilateral trade agreements, especially in the Asia-Pacific, are critical to maintaining and creating markets for U.S. agricultural products. In addition to new market access, NASDA continues to advocate for the trade policy stability needed to facilitate U.S. agriculture and food exports to top markets around the world, and avoid negative impacts of retaliatory tariffs.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Dependable and talented labor is a foundational piece of the agriculture economy and America’s secure food supply. NASDA is committed to filling the gaps in agriculture employment by supporting farmer mental health and safety, partnering with federal and state agencies to redefine what it means to work in agriculture, and finding ways to expand agriculture career pathways. NASDA believes that by investing in people and workforce development systems, we can make the path to agriculture employment straightforward and a promising choice for individuals and families.

HEMP
Since 2002, NASDA has been an advocate for hemp legalization. The 2018 Farm Bill enabled this, and states are building frameworks and markets that can deliver on the crop’s promised economic prosperity for growers. Before harvest comes and the USDA’s interim rule goes final, however, many questions and details remain to be navigated. NASDA continues to work with USDA to provide a clear pathway for US hemp growers. With all of the attention on CBD, a derivative of hemp, it’s imperative that FDA establishes consistent CBD regulations to ensure the crop has a stable market and consumers are kept safe.

FOOD SAFETY
NASDA continues to work with the administration and Congress to ensure adequate resources exist for Food Safety Modernization Act implementation—especially for the state programs charged with implementing these new requirements. “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.