The President’s proposed budget would provide $109.5M for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to continue the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Discussions in both Houses of Congress have suggested considerably less funding for FSMA implementation.

Food safety has been a long-term priority for state departments of agriculture and NASDA, particularly since the publishing of the rules to implement FSMA. NASDA has been working with FDA regarding the program funding needs as we move towards implementation. President’s proposed FY16 budget, which provides $32M for state programs, is a start in the right direction. This is essentially seed money for the three major program areas – Human Food, Animal Food and Produce.

**NASDA Position:**

- Two things must happen simultaneously:
  - FDA must get the rules right.
  - Congress needs to properly fund FSMA.

- NASDA supports full funding of FSMA based on our recognition of the value of a preventive approach to food safety, with the caveat that once NASDA sees the rules we may withdraw or modify our support for funding FSMA.

**Key Concerns with Funding:**

- Piecemeal funding may not allow FDA to concurrently implement all the programs authorized in FSMA.

- Failure to implement these rules concurrently will result in an un-level playing field including potentially more lax enforcement of rules imposed on imported produce.

- The rules to implement FSMA must be right. Failure to do so will result in uneven inspection of areas where the rules are complicated or come at a large expense. This will worsen the un-level playing field of imported foreign produce over American grown fruits and vegetables.

- The switch to preventive controls is wise but will cost money. This approach will require a true commitment to education for the regulated community before – and while – we regulate.

- NASDA supports the preventive approach but recognizes our inability to forecast previously unknown risks to food safety. As new risks are uncovered, education will have a profound impact on prevention.
• Notwithstanding the urgent need to fully fund FSMA implementation, NASDA supports the President’s budget of $109.5 million for FY 16. As state programs become operational, additional funding will be needed in future fiscal years. A shift to more targeted use of the funds will occur as the programs are operationalized.

About NASDA

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) represents the nation’s commissioners, secretaries, and directors of agriculture from all fifty states and four territories. NASDA members are the top elected or appointed agriculture officials in their states and are responsible for a wide range of programs including food safety, environmental stewardship, combating the spread of disease, and fostering the economic vitality of rural communities.

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.