Consumers in the United States enjoy the safest and healthiest food supply in the world; however, food-borne illnesses can still occur.

In our food safety regulatory system, local, state and federal partners share the responsibility of keeping food safe. State agencies, including state departments of agriculture, play a vital role in implementing and enforcing our nation’s system of food safety and inspection laws. NASDA works on a wide variety of issues related to labeling, inspection, and regulation of raw and processed food (including meat, poultry and seafood) and food production, processing and marketing methods and technologies to protect consumer safety and wellness.

**FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

In 2011, FSMA was signed into law and fundamentally transformed our country’s food safety system from reactive (recalls and trace back) to preventive (education and evaluation).

State departments of agriculture and other state agencies are charged with implementing significant portions of FSMA, notably:

- Produce Safety Rule (including special provisions for sprout production)
- Preventive Controls for Human Food
- Preventive Controls for Animal Food

Currently, 46 states and one territory have entered into cooperative agreements with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to educate and/or regulate farms subject to the rule based on a framework NASDA developed through our FDA agreement. A joint NASDA-FDA Implementation Group adds appendices to help guide states in program best practices. A similar framework for animal food safety is available.

As part of NASDA’s guiding principle towards farms’ FSMA compliance, “educate before you regulate,” a team comprised of NASDA, state, FDA and Cooperative Extension food safety leaders developed the On Farm Readiness Review program. Designed to move farmers away from the audit checklist scheme, the OFRR is meant to foster a dialogue between the farmer and the regulator and/or educator about the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule. Learn more and find out how to sign-up for an OFRR at NASDA’s website.

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NASDA’s Ask
NASDA supports additional funding for the following FSMA programs:

• Produce Safety Rule Implementation, State Cooperative Agreement Program
• Animal Food Preventive Controls Rule Implementation, State Cooperative Agreement Program
• Food Safety Outreach Program
• Produce Safety Alliance

NEW ERA FOR FOOD SAFETY

In 2020, the FDA rolled out a new food safety blueprint, New Era for Food Safety, that leverages technology and other tools to create a safer and more digital, traceable food system.

NASDA’s Ask:
NASDA recommends the FDA implement the following as it works towards using technology to assist traceability:

• Create consistent data collection metrics that can be implemented from farms to store shelves.
• Work across government agencies to understand how to effectively collect data.
• Use digital technologies to expedite outbreak-related communications.
• Communicate more frequently with stakeholders.
• Create a central database for all food safety inspection data.