Policy Materials

2020 NASDA Annual Meeting

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Meeting Agenda

Roll Call and Opening Remarks (3:00)
- Secretary Arthur, Commissioner Hatcher and Max Moncaster

COVID-19 Impacts on Animal Agriculture (3:05)
- Secretary Arthur, Opening Remarks
- Guest Speaker: Beth Thompson, MN State Veterinarian
  - How can we better prepare for an animal disease outbreak in the US?

Processing Work Group Updates (3:15)
- Secretary Arthur, Commissioner Hatcher and NASDA Staff
  - Update on Hill Engagement: RAMP-UP Act, Overtime Fee Relief Bill & RELIEF to Producers Act
  - Next Steps for Processing Work Group
  - Action Item Review:
    - Support Significant U.S. Investment to Increase Meat Processing Capacity, Submitted by WASDA

Farm Bill Implementation (3:25)
- Secretary Arthur, Commissioner Hatcher and Max Moncaster
  - Update on NADPRP Proposals
  - Update on NAHLN funding opportunities through appropriations

Member Dialogue (3:25)
- Open Discussion

Adjourn (3:30)
Roll Call and Opening Remarks (1:40)
- Director Sandison, Secretary Naig, and Max Moncaster

Policy Update and Member Discussion (1:45)
- Director Sandison
  - Committee Policy Review

Federal Trade Policy Update (1:50)
- Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
  - USMCA Implementation
  - China Phase One
  - United Kingdom Negotiations

Member Dialogue (2:05)
- Open Discussion

Adjourn (2:10)
Rural Development and Financial Security Committee

Chair: Commissioner Jewel Bronaugh, Virginia
Vice-Chair: Secretary Wes Ward, Arkansas
NASDA Staff Contact: Max Moncaster and Zach Gihorski

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 2 | 1:40 – 2:10 PM | 2020 NASDA Annual Meeting | Virtual

Roll Call and Opening Remarks (1:40)
- Commissioner Bronaugh, Secretary Ward, and Zach Gihorski

State COVID-19 Recovery Efforts (1:45)
- Commissioner Bronaugh and Secretary Ward
  - CARES Act Funding
  - Policy Path Forward

Workforce Protection and Development (1:55)
- Commissioner Bronaugh and Secretary Ward
  - Protecting Workers from COVID-19

Consideration of Policy Amendments (2:05)
- Policy Amendment 1: Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Equity

Member Dialogue (2:08)
- Open Discussion

Adjourn (2:10)
Food Systems and Nutrition Committee
Chair: Secretary Karen Ross, California
Vice-Chair: Commissioner John Lebeaux, Massachusetts
NASDA Staff Contact: Zachary Gihorski

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 2 | 3:00PM-3:45PM | 2020 NASDA Annual Meeting

Roll Call and Opening Remarks (3:00)
- Secretary Ross (3:00)
- Commissioner Lebeaux (3:05)

Introduction of New NASDA Associate Director (3:08)
- Zachary Gihorski

Notification of Specialty Crop discussion – September 9th
- Secretary Ross - All Member in-depth discussion of how states are handling COVID response and recovery as it relates to the SCBGP and nutrition opportunities.

FSMA Presentation (3:10)
- Natalie Krout - California Department of Food and Agriculture, Director of Inspection Services

Member Dialogue (3:25)
- Questions for Natalie Krout
- Open Discussion

Consideration of Other Policy Amendments and Action Items (3:40)
- No Action Items or Policy Amendments Offered at this time.

Adjourn (3:45)
Plant Agriculture & Pesticide Regulation Committee
Chair: Director Bruce Kettler, Indiana
Vice-Chair: Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Connecticut
NASDA Staff Contact: Zachary Gihorski

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 2nd | 2:20pm – 2:50pm | NASDA Annual Meeting

Roll Call and Opening Remarks (2:20)
- Director Kettler
- Commissioner Hurlburt

Introduction of New NASDA Associate Director (2:25)
- Zachary Gihorski, NASDA

EPA State of the Union (2:30)
- Speaker: Carrie Meadows, Agricultural Advisor to the Administrator at EPA.

Member Dialogue (2:40)
- Questions for Carrie Meadows
- Open Discussion

Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items (2:48)
- None offered at this time.

Adjourn (2:50)
Natural Resources & Environment Committee
Chair: Director Celia Gould, Idaho
Vice-Chair: Secretary Michael Scuse, Delaware
NASDA Staff Contact: Max Moncaster

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 2 | 2:20 – 2:50 PM | 2020 NASDA Annual Meeting | Virtual

Roll Call and Opening Remarks (2:20)
  • Director Gould, Secretary Scuse, and Max Moncaster

Policy Update and Discussion (2:25)
  • NASDA Staff
    o PFAS Engagement (Hill and EPA)
    o Current Action Item Status Review

Next Steps: Climate Policy in 2021 and Beyond (2:30)
  • Director Gould and Secretary Scuse
    o Update on Federal Climate Policy Developments
    o NASDA Climate Policy Working Group Status

Member Dialogue (2:45)
  • Open Discussion

Adjourn (2:50)
Policy Amendments & Action Items

2020 Annual Meeting
### Policy Amendments

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Submitted By</th>
<th>Section to be Amended</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Staff Lead</th>
<th>Committee Referral</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NASDA Executive Committee; Secretary Karen Ross, California; Director Alexis Taylor, Oregon; Commissioner Kate Greenberg, Colorado; Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Guiding Principles</td>
<td>Creates a Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Equity Policy framework for NASDA</td>
<td>Max Moncaster</td>
<td>Rural Development &amp; Financial Security Committee</td>
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<td>Zach Gihorski</td>
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### Action Items

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>WASDA Directors</td>
<td>Meat Processing Capacity</td>
<td>NASDA supports significant congressional funding and economic incentives to increase U.S. meat and poultry processing capacity, competition and local access.</td>
<td>Max Moncaster</td>
<td>Animal Agriculture Committee</td>
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<td>Rebecca Barnett</td>
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**2020 NASDA Annual Meeting**

**Policy Amendment Form**

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

<table>
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<th>Committee:</th>
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<td>[ ] Adopted by NASDA</td>
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**Additional Notes:**

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**Section Number and Title to be Amended:** Guiding Principles (16.2) and Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Equity (16.7)

**Subject of Policy Amendment:** Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Equity

**Submitted By:** NASDA Executive Committee; Secretary Karen Ross, California; Director Alexis Taylor, Oregon; Commissioner Kate Greenberg, Colorado; Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania

**Text of Policy Amendment:**

**Section 16.2 – Guiding Principles**

NASDA’s policy process is guided by six /seven principles designed to be the guidelines for a comprehensive, coordinated, and inclusive agricultural policy. We urge federal policy makers /at all levels to adopt similar guidelines.

**Profitability and Viability**

A financially healthy and profitable agricultural sector is essential to the production of a safe, fresh, and affordable food supply. Moreover, economically viable farming and ranching enterprises will enable producers to increase their efforts to maintain a healthy environment, protect our natural resources, and build stronger rural communities.

**NEW – Diversity and Inclusion**

NASDA recognizes that the roots of racism run deep in our shared history which we must address. NASDA believes that the future of agriculture is best served when all of those in the agriculture community are empowered regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, and/or religious creed.

NASDA believes that diversity and inclusion are fundamental principles of a sustainable agricultural community and necessary to advance the agricultural industry in the United States.

NASDA strongly commits itself and its policies to inclusion, outreach, and engagement to embrace diversity within the agriculture sector and to combat racism in all forms.

**NEW – Section 16.7 – Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Equity**

NASDA supports all genders, races, creeds, religions, sexual orientations, and backgrounds of agricultural community members. To further that end, NASDA members support the following:

- NASDA believes federal, state, and local policy should strive to support all agricultural communities equitably.
• NASDA supports programs consistent with NASDA’s guiding principles that offer the opportunity to advance diversity, inclusion, and racial equity.

• NASDA believes that federal policy should support local and regional collaborations that are broadly inclusive and focused on achieving racial equity.

• NASDA believes that federal, state, and local governments must play a key role in collaborations for achieving racial equity, centering community, and leveraging institutional partnerships.

**Background & Rationale:** Defining an equity statement for NASDA reflecting current realities in the agricultural sector.
Action Items (AI) highlight a specific current issue Members feel NASDA should act on or other priority issues. AIs do not establish NASDA policy and must comply with existing policy or be accompanied by a corresponding Policy Amendment.

**Subject of Action Item:**
Support Significant U.S. Investment to Increase Meat Processing Capacity

**Submitted by:**
WASDA Directors

**Text of Action Item:**
NASDA supports significant congressional funding and economic incentives to increase U.S. meat and poultry processing capacity, competition and local access.

**Background & Rationale** (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Action Item):
The impacts of COVID-19 have underscored current supply chain risks and challenges in U.S. meat and poultry processing systems. Addressing this complex issue will require collaborative approaches.

The U.S. needs more meat processors. The American beef and poultry sectors are not homogenous, and meat processing should reflect these dynamic industries. An enhanced meat processing system will give producers and consumers much-needed options.

Additional small and mid-size meat plant processing will build crucial and diversified capacity. Regional processors, specifically, build stronger food supply chains and benefit local communities. However, small and mid-size processors face substantial barriers of entry. Increased capital investment, support for education and training, marketing investments to increase locally processed meat demand, and packing segment competition are necessary. NASDA supports significant funding and economic incentives for small and mid-size meat processors to safely increase U.S. capacity and competition. These economic tools are strategic, long-term investments in the ensured safety and abundance of American protein.

In addition to supporting Congressional funding, NASDA should engage with Capitol Hill to advance initiatives that enhance competition or capacity.
AAFCO Officers and Board members beginning January 2021

President – Erin Bubb, PA
Past President: Kristen Green, KY
Secretary-Treasurer – Ali Kashani (WA)
President-Elect – George Ferguson, NC
Director 1 – Austin Therrell (SC)
Director 2 – Hollis Glenn (CO)
Director 3 – Eric Brady (TN)
Director 4 – Joshua Arbaugh (WV)
Director 5 – Laura Scott, CFIA
Executive Director – Susan Hays

Purpose and Function of AAFCO (established in 1909)
Mission: AAFCO provides science-based resources as the cornerstone to continuously advance animal feed regulatory programs.

Contact: AAFCO Liaison to NASDA: Stan Cook, Missouri Department of Agriculture 573-751-5501

Although AAFCO has no regulatory authority, the Association provides a forum for the membership and industry representation to achieve three main goals:

- Safeguarding the health of animals and humans
- Ensuring consumer protection
- Providing a level playing field of orderly commerce for the animal feed industry

These goals are achieved by developing and implementing uniform and equitable laws, regulations, standards, definitions and enforcement policies for regulating the manufacture, labeling, distribution and sale of animal feeds - resulting in safe, effective and useful feeds by promoting uniformity amongst member agencies.

AAFCO held its 2020 Annual Meeting, virtually, from August 5-7, 2020. The AAFCO annual meeting was well attended, with voting representatives from 41 states, FDA and Canada in attendance. Feed control officials had a busy three days conducting the work of 10 out of the 12 committees. Industry and consumer advisors engaged in the discussions related to animal feed and pet food ingredient definitions and changes in the regulations through revisions to the
AAFCO Model Bill. FDA, industry representatives and public participants from 46 states and 7 countries were present, with a total attendance of 432 people registered for the virtual meeting. The FDA One Health Initiative representative, Dr. Bernadette Dunham was the keynote speaker the first day, addressing “An Introduction to One Health and Its Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Another keynote was presented on the second day by Dr. Tim Schell, FDA Office of Surveillance and Compliance, which brought timely information to the registrants on the “Coronavirus Impacts on Animal Food”.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FEED CONTROL OFFICIALS. The association continues to be busy and has improved many of its communications processes and procedures in its 12 committees. Much of the improvement can be contributed to the addition of an executive director. A year ago, the AAFCO board of directors selected Sue Hays as the first Executive Director of the 110 year old organization. Her biographic summary can be found at: https://www.aafco.org/Portals/0/SiteContent/Publications/newsletter/AAFCO_Newsletter_Vol3_Iss1_2018_Jun.pdf?v2

During the program year, AAFCO offers three professional development programs for members (state regulators). The 55th Annual Feed Administrator’s Seminar was cancelled due to the COVID-19 shut down at that time, and plans are in place to tentatively hold the Administrator’s Seminar in 2021. The Advanced Inspectors Training (AITS) and Basic Inspectors Training (BITS) are in discussion and may be offered in 2021.

Use of the AAFCO Feed Bin (a communication and organization management software) continues to expand and add value to the association. The online database of ingredients software, called ODI, was implemented a year ago and is providing the capability to scan a label and verify the ingredients are in AAFCO’s list of ingredients. This technology is provided to regulators and industry as part of their membership in the association.

NASDA AAFCO FDA: As the FDA Cooperative Agreement Grant enters its final year, the framework product continues to be modified and improved. The framework helps guide state program leadership in adoption and implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Preventive Controls for Animal Foods rule. AAFCO supplied subject matter experts to assist NASDA in developing a curriculum directed at Division Directors, Program Managers and Coordinators and Laboratory personnel to assist in recognizing and managing the changes in the state program to adopt the preventive control regulatory functions of FSMA rule. Training was provided to 80 state staff from 29 states. The training has been modified to a virtual format. A program gap analysis tool is currently being developed for further training this year.

Future meetings
2021 Midyear Meeting, January 19-21, San Antonio, TX
2021 Annual Meeting, August 2-4, Omaha, NE

2022 Midyear Meeting, January 18-20, Mobile, AL
2022 Annual Meeting, August 3-6, St. Louis, MO
The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) was formed in 1947, the same year that Congress enacted the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Members of AAPCO consist of the officers charged by law with the execution of the state, territorial, provincial, and federal pesticide laws in the United States, including all its territories (hereafter referred to as states), and in Canada.

AAPCO oversees the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG). SFIREG and its working committees provide a platform for the states and EPA to resolve challenges to successful implementation of pesticide programs and policies in the USA and territories.

**AAPCO Mission Statement**

Our mission is to represent State Pesticide Control Officials in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policies and programs related to the sale, use, transport, and disposal of pesticides.

**Objectives**

- Support Federal and State pesticide policies and programs that protect human health and the environment, while acknowledging the important benefits of pesticide use, including consumer protection and the continued ability to secure high quality food, feed and fiber.
- Provide technical support to AAPCO members, the U.S. Congress, EPA, NASDA, and others; and a national forum to identify pesticide regulatory issues, solicit input, and provide solutions through policies, position papers, and lobbying activities. Disseminate timely and useful information on relevant state and national pesticide regulatory activities.
- Build partnerships, and promote effective communication between AAPCO and governmental agencies, and other organizations and stakeholders.
- Encourage the development of pesticide labels that have directions for use that are stated in terms which can be easily read and understood by the average person likely to use or to supervise the use of the pesticide; and when followed, are adequate to protect the public from fraud and from personal injury, and to prevent unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.

**Key Activities Over the Last Year**

**AAPCO:**

- Held the AAPCO 73rd Annual Meeting and Conference, March 8-11, 2020 in Alexandria, VA.
- Provided a letter to EPA regarding the re-registration of the new dicamba containing pesticides.
- Provided a letter to EPA requesting an extension of the comment period for several neonicotinoid pesticide PIDs.
• Provided a letter to EPA regarding funding for POINTS.
• Provided comments to EPA regarding the Antimicrobial Performance Program- (Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0265)
• Provided comments to EPA regarding Tolerance Exemption: Sodium Lauryl Sulfate-(Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0763)
• Provided Comments to EPA on the Revision to the Application Exclusion Zone-(Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0543)
• Continued the series of formal educational outreach efforts between EPA and AAPCO.
• Continued dialogue with state lead agencies (SLA’s) regarding the challenges involved in the 2020 growing season and the use of OTT dicamba.

**SFIREG and Committees:**
Provided letters, memos or issue papers to EPA on:
- Pesticide device registration
- EPA’s proposed mitigation for clopyralid

**AAPCO Internal Organization Efforts:**

AAPCO will hold the summer board meeting virtually, following the SFIREG JWC meeting, September 23. The AAPCO BOD continues to meeting virtually on a monthly basis.

**Upcoming meetings:**
- SFIREG Working Committee meetings, Sept 21-22 2020 California/Virtual
- SFIREG Meeting December 7-8 in Crystal City, VA. (possibly virtual)
- AAPCO 74th Annual Meeting and Conference, March 7-10, 2020 in Alexandria, VA.

Information regarding many of the above reference activities are at: [https://aapco.org](https://aapco.org).

Respectfully Submitted,

Leo Reed, AAPCO President
Office of the Indiana State Chemist
On behalf of our current Board of Directors and members, we wish to thank the Chairpersons, Chiefs, Commissioners, Directors and Secretaries of Agriculture for allowing your staff to attend and participate in meetings and training opportunities for the benefit of the AAPFCO and your staff members. AAPFCO recently completed a successful 2020 Summer Annual Virtual Meeting. 243 people participated at the August 2020 Meeting. 37 states and Canada were represented by 88 Control Officials.

Highlights from the work AAPFCO has discussed and accomplished this past year include:

- Formation of a Biostimulant Committee to Draft a Model Bill, develop uniform labeling requirements, approve definitions, and define testing methods.
- Started the process to identify and report online, lab method limitations. This process will aid state and private lab personnel in selecting the appropriate lab methods when analyzing complex fertilizer samples.
- Creation of AAPFCO Online and introduction of the electronic official publication in February 2018. This is still a work in progress, but represents the future direction of our association and offers opportunities for better capturing and sharing information.
- Approved funding and the hiring of a Postdoc student to review literature regarding Slow and Controlled Release fertilizers to see if an update to Rule 3 (or the “15% Rule”) is in order.
- AAPFCO is involved and has representation (Mr. Eddie Simons) on the newly formed Biostimulants Working Group that will advise USDA on these products.
- Supported the addition of Beneficial Substances to the title of ISO-Technical Committee 134, namely Fertilizers, Soil Conditions and Beneficial Substances. This will help assign an ISO committee to deal with international terminology, methodology labeling requirements for items that may not specifically qualify as fertilizers or soil amendments such as stabilizers, inhibitors, humic and fulvic acids, biostimulants and others.
- Creation of a new Overhead and Incidental Cost Policy.
• Creation of the William L Hall award to recognize members of the Laboratory Community that have made significant achievements, which will be outlined in the next Official Publication.

This concludes the AAPFCO 2020 report to NASDA and once again, we thank the states who allowed their employees, our members to attend and participate:

States with first time attendees: GA, KS, NJ and PA.

States with first time participants: SD, VT

2019-20 AAPFCO meetings include:
• Basic Inspector Training Seminar (BITS) (September 17-19, 2019) in Buckhead, GA.
• Administrator Seminar (October 22-24, 2019) in Kansas City, MO.
• Winter Annual Meeting (February 16-19, 2020) in New Orleans, LA.
• Summer Annual Meeting (July 31, August 3-4, 2020) Virtual meeting.

We cordially invite you to allow your staff to attend our future meetings and training opportunities. Additional information regarding these meetings and our association is posted on our website at http://www.aapfco.org/

Respectfully yours,

Joseph V. Slater,
Secretary
2020 Report to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

The Association of American Seed Control Officials is an organization of seed regulatory officials from the United States and Canada. AASCO was organized in 1949 from an outgrowth of regional meetings held in various parts of the United States.

**AASCO Annual Meeting:**
AASCO annual meeting was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic on July 15th, 2020; there were more than 40 states represented as well as USDA and Canada. This was the first online annual meeting held by our organization and was hosted by New York. The 2021 annual meeting is planned to be hosted by New York in Geneva, but we also recognize the uncertainty of planning travel and face-to-face contact a year in advance due to the tenaciousness of this disease.

**RUSSL:**
The Recommended Uniform State Seed Laws is a living document intended to provide to states when drafting or revising state seed law. The latest review and updating of RUSSL has been deferred to 2021.

**SEED LAB UNIFORMITY STUDY:**
AASCO partnered with The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) to conduct a study which would help determine issues regarding lab uniformity. This study was completed earlier this year and the results were shared with the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST). Our goal is to provide good scientific data to AOSA/SCST so they can better prioritize issues in lab testing.

**SEED SAMPLING TRAINING:**
The AASCO accredited seed sampling training is part of a nationwide effort to bring uniformity to seed sampling; our training program is currently moving online. At the 2018 meeting, AASSCO members agreed to support and explore the idea of producing a seed sampling video with online testing. We budgeted for this transition and began to explore options. The COVID-19 pandemic quickly eliminated the in-person training model we had in place. AASCO then recognized that we either were going to have a sampling program or not. We made a decision to move to an online testing model immediately. Once this new testing program is initiated we will evaluate and adapt so we can continue with the same training standards as we had with the old in-person program.

For any additional information, a copy of RUSSL or to contact any member of AASCO, please visit our website at www.seedcontrol.org.
Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)
2019-2020 Report

2019-2020 President: Dr. Ernie Julian, Rhode Island Department of Health
2020-2021 President: Mark Sestak, Alabama Department of Health
2020 Conference: Held Virtually, June 29, 2020
2021 Conference: Grand Rapids, MI, June 12 - 16, 2020

Collaboration with NASDA
• AFDO continues to collaborate with NASDA on the new Produce Safety Cooperative Agreement.
• NASDA and AFDO continue to work together training projects with FDA’s Office of Training, Education, and Development including alternative delivery of FDA courses.
• AFDO collaborated with NASDA to develop and produce podcasts for scheduled presentations at the cancelled 2020 Produce Safety Consortium.
• AFDO included NASDA on virtual platform information calls and demonstrations to assist them in planning a virtual NASDA Consortium.

2019 – 20 Accomplishments
General Education Web-Based Courses
Twenty-four (24) general education web-based courses were redeveloped and posted in the FDA learning management system, Pathlore.
• The courses are based upon learning objectives from job task analysis completed for human and animal food inspections and are the first large part of the IFPTI curriculum framework completed.
• A major focus of the redevelopment was incorporating more interaction for enhancing learner engagement with the course content.
• Three new Gen Eds will be ready in the fall of 2020: Emergency Response, Pest Control, and Plumbing.

Cannabis and Hemp
• Partnered with FOCUS (Foundation of Cannabis Unified Standards) to develop model standards document.
• Formalized public-private partnership project building training regulators and industry.
• Partners are FOCUS & Green Flower, a leading cannabis training provider.
• Will create approximately 30 cannabis courses to be available without cost to regulators.
• Courses will start being released after Labor Day with project completion by March 2021.

FDA In-Person Course Delivery
Completed 13 scheduled in-person deliveries were reduced to 5 due to the pandemic:
• FD 215 Managing Retail Food Safety (2 courses) and
• FD 218 Risk-based Inspection Methods (3 courses).
• Scheduled to deliver 29 virtual courses over the next August 2020-September 2021.

Environmental Sampling for Retail Outbreaks
The day-long Environmental Sampling as a Tool for Solving Foodborne Illness Outbreaks at the Retail Food Level was taught twice as part of a three-day AFDO training event in early 2020 In between was the inaugural train-the-trainer class that attracted more than a dozen people from as far away as Hawaii.

Virtual Documents Review
• Worked with FoodShield to develop a platform that allows industry to securely upload written procedures and documents and control access to them, while allowing authorized regulatory personnel to conduct online reviews of the materials.
• Shared the concept with FDA-ORA and Consumer Brands Association
• Solution will not replace inspections, but will reduce the amount of time regulatory personnel need to spend in a facility by providing a secure opportunity to review records associated with an inspection in advance of the onsite visit.
• Drafting model policies and procedures for use by state regulatory programs to complete virtual inspections.

**COVID-19 Response and Guidance**  Immediately, AFDO spent significant time and talent developing resources for regulators and industry partners of high-quality while being timely.
• More than 46 editions of the COVID-19 Food Safety Update was distributed to more than 750 stakeholders and featured a brief, easy to skim and read format. Initiated surveys providing state staffs information about what was happening elsewhere and resources that might to shared.
• Stood up a resource digest on the front page of the AFDO website that allowed critical resources to reside in one go-to location. AFDO included information that had been developed by partners and other subject matter experts.
• AFDO posed questions on behalf of stakeholders to the FDA and promoted answers as they were released.
• AFDO frequently collaborated with industry trade associations and consumer groups and assisted with the distribution of timely information developed by these groups.
• AFDO led the development of significant guidance and best practices for multiple audiences. Nearly a dozen best practice and guidance documents were developed
• Supported regulatory and industry partners by providing relevant content to keep staff engaged by offering a growing series of webinars and web-based training courses. AFDO provided 86 webinars averaging two per week on topics including general food safety, retail foods, manufactured foods, COVID-19, and cannabis. 14,000 participants and an additional 17,000 views of recordings post-event. The recorded webinars can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/user/afdo1896/videos
• AFDO podcast catalog has been continually updated. Videos can be found at https://afdo.podbean.com/ and audio podcasts at https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/.

**Collaboration on Food Safety Regulatory Issues**  AFDO continues to administer the FDA Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards Cooperative agreement, providing support to enrolled states and overseeing a variety of different projects to assist states in improving the overall quality of their manufactured food safety programs.
• Oversaw the MFRPS standards change process, which resulted in the MFRPA member states voting to recommend the revisions to the MFRPS standards that would incorporate new requirements related to preventive controls inspections.
• Initiated planning of the 2021 MFRPA annual meeting which will be held in a virtual format for the first time. The meeting is tentatively slated for February 2-4, 2021 and will continue to highlight best practices, mutual reliance activities and the ever-popular speed-dating sessions.
• Expanded the Directory of State and Local Officials adding key state body art contacts. AFDO is currently preparing to transition the DSLO to a new contact management system, which will offer enhanced filtering and search features, and also incorporate the recently developed state and local retail food regulatory program list. AFDO has also
updated and expanded the AFDO Process Authorities list, which is the most comprehensive listing of process authorities in the country.

**AFDO Sub-Awarding FDA Funding to State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Jurisdictions**
- AFDO is preparing for the opening of the AFDO-Managed Retail Program Standards Grant Program, offering funds for CY 2021 Retail Program Standards training and projects. In 2020, AFDO funded 490 projects for a total of $2,167,646. Due to COVID-19, some of the grantees were unable to spend all of their CY2020 training grant funds due to course cancellations, so AFDO is currently working with the grantees to update their training grant awards.
- Since the inception of AFDO’s management of the Milk and Shellfish Grant Program, we have made 556 sub-awards totaling $5,560,521. These grants were for training and equipment needs for Milk and Shellfish Programs in CY 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The application period for CY 2021 Training awards will open on September 23, 2020 with awards announced in early December.

**AFDO Priorities for 2019-2020**  AFDO President Mark Sestak has outlined short, mid and long-term priorities for the current year. A conversation with Sestak about AFDO priorities can be found at [https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/](https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/). They include:
- Continuation of Healthy People 2030 Effort: AFDO kicked this off in January 2020 with a summit, creating an ad hoc committee to continue this important work co-chaired by past president Dr. Ernie.
- Integrated Food Safety System: focus on pushing concepts downstream to local jurisdictions and FDA field offices
- AFDO Affiliates: focus on more collaboration on major initiatives such as mutual reliance and the blueprint for a smarter era of food safety
- Retail Collaborative: continue the work started, pursue opportunities for retail modernization

8/11/20
The Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) is a professional association comprised of structural pest control regulatory officials from across the United States, representing the fifty states, tribes, and territories. ASPCRO’s goal is to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of each state through the fair and effective regulation of the pest control industry. This important goal is realized in partnership with the help of local, state, and federal agencies, registrants, and pesticide manufacturers, which together, are vital in the control of pests of public health and economic significance. ASPCRO works collaboratively with the US Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies, state and local regulatory authorities, and professional associations including the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE), the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and others to achieve its primary goal.

ASPCRO hosts two meetings annually. The Annual Conference provides a forum for discussion of the most current issues impacting pesticide regulation and the regulated industry. The meeting is attended by a broad range of stakeholders interested in the regulation of the Structural Pest Control industry that includes local, state and federal officials charged with the regulation of pesticide use within their respective jurisdictions; members of the regulated industry; pesticide safety educators from cooperative extension; researchers; registrants and other private enterprises interested in the subject of pest management and proper pesticide usage. Due to the current SARS-CoV-2 virus the annual meeting scheduled to be held in Minneapolis, NM was postponed to August 2021. Notification of this meeting and the midyear meeting slated for early 2021 will be forthcoming.

The effectiveness of ASPCRO as an organization stems from its working committees which meet as needed to address relevant issues specific to each committee's area of concern. ASPCRO’s Public Health Committee (PHC) is continuing its work on public health implications of pesticide misuse, with a new focus on products listed for use on the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The shared concern over Internet sales of illegal pesticides remains a continued feature of the committee’s work. Concerns over general use and use in schools have been heightened given the current climate surrounding the virus resulting in products with questionable efficacy offered on Amazon and eBay. The PHC is planning to distribute some of the materials produced by NPIC, OSHA and the CDC as well as EPA’s FAQ N-List Disinfectant Use Against SARS-CoV-2. One important goal in the effort to educate consumers and business owners is on how to identify legally registered pesticides from counterfeit products. The efforts to improve education on pesticides coincides with a task force sanctioned by the Board of Directors in 2019. The task force, part of the Termiticide Standards Committee (TSC), has the primary purpose of sharing information among pesticide regulatory officials and product registrants when counterfeit or
illegal products are found in the marketplace. The two-fold approach to education and the sharing of information with states is being utilized to better assess the illegal and illicit sale and use of pesticides across the Country.

The Building Code Committee (BCC) has been focusing on problems with Spray Polyurethane Foam Insulation (SPFI). Recently, State Lead Agencies (SLA’s) discovered that installation of PSFI in homes may prohibit identification of wood-destroying organisms and their damage by concealing some inspection areas, thereby resulting in the cancellation of contracts by pest management companies that utilized SPFI. Of primary concern is the proper installation of the PSFI in crawl spaces which will allow pest management professionals to properly inspect for termites. A key factor in performing a termite inspection is an inspection gap needed to identify termite activity emanating from the ground. The BCC conducted a short survey in which twenty-two states responded. Five states reported complaints related to the use of SPFI. Of those five states only one enforcement action was taken involving an inaccessible area on a Wood-Destroying Inspection report. Other findings included four states reference building codes in pesticide regulations and three states have either building codes or pesticide regulations that require inspection gaps. The results of the survey are published on ASPCRO’s website.

The Structural Fumigation Committee (SFC) is routinely communicating with OPP as they finalize risk assessments and preliminary interim decisions for the structural/commodity fumigants. SFC continues to offer and provide resources and assistance to EPA for training needs and discussion regarding the state regulation and the use of the structural/commodity fumigants. ASPCRO has worked with NPMA to host 3 fumigation workshops for EPA pesticide reevaluation scientists (Total of 46 EPA staff participated in these workshops). EPA’s Clearance Device Study has been completed and they plan to post to the public docket by October. The agency hopes to share some information with stakeholder prior to the October posting. In 2019, MARAMA issued a fumigation white paper focusing on fumigation and environmental agencies regulating fumigants as air pollutants. The SFC has plans to discuss the topic of air permits for structural fumigations with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA), which is made up of 11 states. Finally, SFC has been meeting with Sandra McDonald on the PERC Non-soil fumigant project. SFC has several members that are also serving on the PERC project workgroup. SFC continues to provide support and a network of experts to assist when needed. SFC assisted with the learning objective ranking survey and collecting information from ASPCRO members and affiliates.

The School IPM Committee has had some recent activity since its last meeting in August 2019. The Committee will be working on a white paper meant for school districts, teachers, and parents to provide accessible information about pesticides. The committee will be developing school administrators, teachers, and other staff on how pesticides are registered and how risks to pesticide use is evaluated. We are also going to build a survey to see how pest management in schools has changed since surveys completed prior to 2015.

If you are interested in finding out more about ASPCRO please visit our website at www.aspcro.org or by emailing mpage@aspcro.org for additional information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Okey

ASPCRO Acting President
The 2020 Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) and Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) annual meeting was scheduled to be held in June in Indianapolis, IN in conjunction with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA). Due to covid-19 health concerns and associated travel restrictions, this year’s annual meeting was cancelled.

Current AOSA membership includes thirty-eight State laboratories, four USDA laboratories, one Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) laboratory, and five Associate laboratory members. Within these member laboratories, there are over 100 individually accredited seed analysts who perform various critical seed tests related to seed quality and regulatory compliance.

AOSA and SCST continue to work to merge the two organizations under the collective organization to be known as the United Seed Testing Organization (USTO). Under this plan, AOSA and SCST would become committees within USTO, to better address the needs of governmental and non-governmental seed laboratories. This merger would streamline the structure of organizations and help reduce the operational costs, while still providing AOSA full control of the “AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds”.

Excellent publications are available from AOSA/SCST. AOSA will soon have a Spanish version of the 2019 “AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds” available for purchase. The plan is to have a current version available each year, thereafter. The newly written “AOSA Purity Handbook” will be available for purchase soon, as well as an updated version of the “AOSA Moisture Determination Handbook” and the “Cultivar Purity Handbook”. Additionally, SCST will soon release a Spanish version of the “Seed Technologist Training Manual”. Please visit https://www.analyzeseeds.com/publications/ to view more resources.

Thanks to generous grants from USDA AMS, AOSA/SCST are developing short films to increase the awareness of the important function of seed testing and the critical role filled by AOSA and SCST laboratories. Training films will also be developed to educate seed analysts on various aspects of seed testing to increase and promote testing uniformity across all laboratories.

Due to cancellation of the annual AOSA/SCST meeting and restrictions of the organizational bylaws, members were not able to discuss and vote on AOSA rule proposals for 2020. A full list of these proposals can be viewed at www.analyzeseeds.com/aosarules-2/ and then click on “2020 AOSA Rules Change Proposals” link. AOSA and SCST leadership are working to create a special bylaw provisions to address this need, should future situations arise where the annual meeting cannot be held in person.

AOSA greatly appreciates the support of NASDA members for their State seed labs. An active seed regulatory compliance program is vital to protect and serve farmers and the Seed Industry within their states. It is also needed to help protect the environment against invasive and difficult to control species and to protect and ensure a high quality seed supply that is vital for the production of food, feed, fiber, and fuel. With State seed labs in place, agricultural departments can react quickly to seed-based crisis such as the recent unsolicited “China mystery seed” packets distributed across several States.

AOSA greatly appreciates the support of NASDA and the allowance for members of their State seed laboratories to attend these vital and informative meetings. The 2021 AOSA/SCST annual meeting is currently scheduled for June 11–17 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Hope to see you there. Please visit our website at https://www.analyzeseeds.com/ for more information regarding AOSA/SCST.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Johnston, CSA/RST, AOSA President
Since 1935, the International Association of Milk Control Agencies has worked toward improving the effectiveness and uniformity of regulation among the economic regulatory agencies and providing a forum for the exchange of information. During the last 85 years, the Association has served the dairy industry well in fulfilling its original mission.

The milk industry has never been more complicated, more volatile or more important to the economic vitality of our economies. IAMCA provides a unique forum for understanding and reacting to the ever-changing milk industry.

Members in IAMCA enjoy the below benefits:

- Contacts with industry leaders and regulatory personnel from different U.S States, Canadian Provinces and Mexican Standards organizations;
- Updated data base of retail milk prices in different areas;
- Participation in the organization Quarterly newsletter which discusses new developments and changes in the dairy industry in the U.S, Canada and Mexico;
- A forum for industry regulators to exchange new ideas and developments in the dairy industry;
- Access to U.S, Canadian and Mexican scholars involved in advanced research and new developing trends in the dairy industry; and
- Access to annual convention presentations, speeches, and information from companies involved in the dairy industry.

During the 2019-20 year, IAMCA members amended the Constitution to provide for expanded membership opportunities and clarified other areas.

The planned 2020 Annual Meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island was postponed to the summer of 2021 due to the worldwide pandemic and related travel restrictions. It is expected that travel will be possible in the following year.

Sincerely,

Dan McCarthy
Secretary / Treasurer
North American Agricultural Marketing Officials
Annual Report to NASDA - August, 2020

The North American Agricultural Marketing Officials (NAAMO) is an International organization of the State and Provincial government agricultural marketing officials who provide both domestic and international marketing services to the agricultural and food industries in their states and provinces. The purpose of NAAMO is to provide its members with a forum to network, collaborate and share insights to enhance the development, marketing and promotion of North American food and agricultural products.

NAAMO is governed by an Executive Board that is elected annually and conducts business monthly. This year the board was pleased to have Max Moncaster serve as our NASDA liaison. During board meetings, a variety of topics were discussed including but not limited to:

- USDA Domestic Marketing Programs
- International Trade: USMCA, Tri-National Accord, efforts to improve trade relations/financing opportunities, for example.
- Support programs associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19): CARES Act, CFAP, PPP, EIDL and Farmers to Families Food Box Program, for example.
- NASDA Foundation Initiatives: USDA AMS grant program performance measures; local and regional food systems disruptions due to Covid-19.

Due to travel and hosting restrictions caused by Covid-19, the 99th NAAMO Annual Conference and Business Meeting was held virtually on July 29 and hosted by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. More than 90 participants from Canada and the United States joined the session. Keynote speakers included Michele Payn from Cause Matters Corp. and USDA AMS Associate Administrator Erin Morris. Payn shared a variety of consumer and marketing insights ranging from food labeling and promotion to sustainability and animal production/animal welfare practices. Associate Administrator Morris provided two primary updates for the USDA’s Farmers to Families Food Box Program (round three) and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

It was decided by the Executive Board to forgo the 2020 Marketing Excellence Award program and resume in 2021 as the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will host the 100th NAAMO Annual Conference and Business Meeting in Starkville next July.

Organizational priorities for 2020-21 include:

- Increasing North American membership engagement in NAAMO activities and events.
- Developing a quarterly virtual session for all NAAMO members addressing current topics and trends in the agriculture and food marketing sector.
- Continuing to strengthen working relationships with federal partners and NASDA colleagues.
- Attending and engaging in the 2021 NASDA Winter Policy Conference to celebrate and recognize NAAMO’s 100 years in existence.

NAAMO sincerely values NASDA’s partnership. Thank you.
The National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials (NADRO) works in cooperation with the United States
Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to:

1. Protect the health, welfare, and interests of consumers of all grade “A” and non-grade “A” dairy
   products;
2. Consider problems and effect programs designed to further the interests of dairy producers and the
dairy industry;
3. Promote unity and efficiency in the application of regulatory measures in dairy fields;
4. Formulate recommendations relating to the general use or application of designations, definitions,
   standards of composition, marketing, standard methods of analysis, and requirements for marketing
   and labeling milk and dairy products;
5. Advise the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture on dairy issues.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, NADRO made the tough decision to cancel our annual meeting. NADRO
committed, at the request of our membership, to complete some important action items that did come out of
our 2019 meeting over the last year. NADRO lobbyied FDA to create an online searchable database of all FDA’s
Grade “A” Milk Memorandas. The searchable database (GAMS) serves as an important resource to state and
local milk regulatory and rating agencies, the industry and other interested parties. NADRO was instrumental
in the testing phase of the database and FDA/CFSAN’s team did an excellent job compiling a massive amount of
data to make it more user friendly. NADRO would like to commend FDA/CFSAN for their quick action and
excellent product. Additionally, NADRO also requested the development of a communication plant with
FDA/CFSAN regarding regulations concerning CBD/Hemp Extract. NADRO leadership attend a conference call
with the Hemp Working Group within CFSAN to begin discussions on how this communication may look. The
discussion is ongoing and NADRO hopes to gain more access to future regulations concerning these products as
more states legalize their use and they are finding there way into dairy products. Last, some NADRO member
states had a concern with cows being vaccinated with RB51 and the exposure of that vaccine to consumers who
choose to drink the milk from these animals raw, as is legal in some states. NADRO does not condone or support
the consumption of raw milk in any form or fashion, but some member states wanted to ensure that local
veterinarians were aware of the dangers and consulting their clients appropriately. NADRO formulated a letter to
the American Association of Bovine Practioners (AABP) outlining the concerns of the group and asking that the
guidance to practicing vets be altered for clients selling raw milk for human consumption. The letter was sent to
the president of AABP and we look forward to communication back on the group’s thoughts on NADRO’s
concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,
Zachary Conlin, President

Contact information for Executive Treasurer:
NADRO-Eunice Schlappi Office: 502-572-4122
KY Department of Agriculture Email: eunice.schlappi@ky.gov
111 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601
August 11, 2020

RE: Annual Report from the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials

The past 12 months have seen unprecedented opportunities and challenges for the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO, or the National Assembly) in our efforts to work collectively to safeguard animal and public health as well as the food supply. Please accept this allied organization report.

**Significant Accomplishments**

- The National Assembly provided an early and nimble forum for State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) to communicate impacts and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly related to agricultural guidance documents before federal guidance was issued and to quickly achieve a uniform approach to interstate trade of livestock and poultry.

- NASAHO has been part of an African Swine Fever Working Group that has produced several preparedness consensus documents and significantly, immediately swung into action with industry, state and federal partners to lend expertise and facilitate
communication related to swine euthanasia and disposal secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic impact on supply chains.

- In response to the multi-state outbreak of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD), the National Assembly convened a SAHO working group that included the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and wildlife agency representation, which produced a comprehensive package of guidance documents and RHD information. Additionally, NASAHO provided a letter of support to USDA for limited emergency importation of vaccine not licensed in the United States. NASAHO also developed comments and expressed general support for the USDA strategy to recognize RHD as “stable” or endemic in some states, particularly those with disease in wild hares and rabbits.

- NASAHO members have been participating in a USDA Working Group to revise USDA’s regulations pertaining to Bovine Tuberculosis. This working group has completed its assignment and we hope to see proposed regulations soon.

- Our members have also been working with USDA to update the USDA Bovine Brucellosis program. That work has also been recently completed and we look forward to seeing proposed regulations soon.

- The National Assembly is extremely grateful for the National Assembly of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) support for traceability of imported livestock. We are pleased to see that USDA Veterinary Services has begun to take action to address these concerns, evidenced by a memo sent to its port veterinarians regarding livestock shipments with invalid destination addresses.

- The National Assembly has established a mechanism by which vendors who wish to provide electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection software to SAHO may have their products reviewed for compliance with the US Animal Health Association data standard. This assures interoperability and should result in substantial labor savings for state departments of agriculture.

- In conjunction with other organizations, NASAHO continues to support and guide the development of Interstatelivestock.com which is an independent, one stop website that animal owners can use to sort through importation requirements for all U.S. States. This year the website has expanded to include several species beyond cattle.

- The National Assembly provided representation at all eight USDA animal health agriculture sector meetings, contributing to issue communication between industry, business organizations and government agencies.

- Besides providing the aforementioned consensus comments, NASAHO also submitted formal comments on the farm funding bill related to COVID-19 impacts, federal Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response planning investments, the need for continual vigilance and reporting of disease incidence by Food Safety Inspection Service to their local SAHO, risks of unchecked pet importation and recommendation to shift to USDA
oversight, COVID-19 lessons for the National Agriculture Biosecurity Center, National List of Reportable Animal Diseases, National Poultry Improvement Plan amendments to include Newcastle Disease Clean program and changes relative to avian influenza, and on the National Biological Select Agent and Toxins list.

Current Challenges and Concerns

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has had devastating impacts on animal agriculture and has renewed our concerns about environmentally sound and biosecure management of mass mortality events in livestock. Humane depopulation of market swine became necessary due to supply chain interruptions arising from the United States’ dependence on highly concentrated livestock processing industries. States and the federal government must continue developing rapid and humane methods of depopulation.

- COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 in animals has re-emphasized the importance of One Health – the concept that public health, animal health, wildlife health are all interdependent. National Assembly members are currently participating in a USDA One Health and Livestock Working Group focused on SARS-CoV-2 and agricultural animals.

- Rendering continues to be challenged across the country as regulations and costs escalate while capacity struggles to meet demand or provide for surge. Coordination between environmental agencies, the Food and Drug Administration, USDA, states and industry is immediately needed to resolve growing daily mortality management issues, let alone be prepared for major surges.

- The National Assembly believes it is critical that USDA continues to move forward with the modernization of livestock identification. While much focus has been directed to official radio-frequency identification (RFID) ear tags for cattle, it is important to assure that the infrastructure to read these tags is also in place at livestock markets and other points of livestock concentration.

- The National Assembly believes that FMD vaccine will probably play an important role in a future FMD outbreak in the US. Accordingly, we are concerned that USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services take all reasonable measures to assure US producers that we support research developing more effective vaccines, have an adequate supply of FMD vaccine, an adequate cold chain to distribute the vaccine, and an adequately trained cadre of veterinarians to administer the vaccine.

- NASAHO has recently formed a Coryza Working Group that will leverage efforts in several states to better understand an mitigate the unusual economic impact this disease has been having on layers and broilers.

- Other issues on the horizon include antimicrobial use in animals, bee health, aquaculture and disease management, and support for local market meat and poultry processing.
National Plant Board report to the
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
July 31, 2020

2019 -2020 has seen a number of changes for the National Plant Board (NPB). Aurelio Posadas, long-time NPB Executive Secretary, retired at the end of August 2019. After careful deliberation, NPB selected Impact Association Management for administrative support.

The National Plant Board has been involved in a number of activities and initiatives this past year. Highlights include:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture hosted a Spotted Lanternfly (SFL) Summit in March 2020, and NPB added an extra day for a NPB members only meeting. This meeting was highly successful; the model SLF quarantine was finalized, and is now available on the NPB web site, and a number of action items were developed.
- The NPB Firewood Guidelines were released and are now available on the NPB web site. Background - the NPB Firewood Working Group was formed in 2018 to create a reference document containing organized and vetted firewood resources to provide states, in response to USDA plans to deregulate emerald ash borer (EAB). States expressed concern that the absence of a federal regulation for EAB would leave states vulnerable to the movement of pests in firewood. The NPB Firewood working group was charged with developing a framework of activities for states to use in making informed choices on how to best prevent or reduce the movement of pests and pathogens in and on firewood.
- Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus review group – NPB members assisted USDA in developing the survey protocol, which was finalized in June and immediately put to use as part of an expanded survey effort
- NPB members are collaborating on a State Department of Agriculture Laboratory Partnership Initiative. The overall goal of this effort is to create a forum to connect the plant diagnosticians housed in state departments of agriculture laboratories with one another.
- USDA and NPB are partnering together on the Resource Sharing Initiative Working Group, to develop a framework and templates for the Resource Sharing Initiative created under the USDA-NPB Strategic Alliance.
- NPB members also assisted USDA with a review of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program.

SANC – The NPB has continued to champion the development of the Systems Approach to Nursery Certification Program. There have been a number of important advances in this program recently, including:
- The SANC Inspector Manual is now available on the SANC website
• DS Cole Growers, located in Loudon, New Hampshire, is the latest facility to become fully SANC certified. They had been in the U.S./Canada Greenhouse Certification Program (USCGCP) for six years and saw SANC as the next logical step. DS Cole Growers agreed to serve as the pilot nursery to see if the goal to have both programs work in tandem was possible. The answer was yes.
• The SANC pilot phase ends in late 2020 and the program will “go live” January 1, 2021.
• Currently 14 nurseries have achieved full SANC certification, and five others are working towards that goal. These nurseries are spread across 15 states.
• SANC trainings for inspectors were cut short by Covid 19, but NPB anticipates providing those trainings in 2021.

On the Administrative side, the NPB has taken steps to strengthen the organization through better documentation of policies and processes, and improved communication with members. Actions towards these goals include:
• Moved the incorporation of the NPB from North Carolina to Wisconsin, which resulted in updated Articles of Incorporation and Re-domestication
• Reviewed and modernized the NPB By-laws
• Secured liability insurance for the NPB and Board of Directors
• Began development of a NPB handbook, to document and formalize the activities and procedures of the NPB. This should build better institutional memory, streamline officer transitions, and make education of new members much easier.
• Developed a quarterly NPB newsletter, as an additional outlet for communicating with membership.

The NPB continues to partner with the USDA APHIS PPQ to handle an ever evolving number of pest issues. In the past 12 months, examples of cooperative pest efforts include:
• Collection of, sampling, and destruction of unsolicited seeds from China
• Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus surveys
• Ralstonia traceforward inspections, seizures and destructions
• *Phytophthora ramorum* traceforward (and traceback) inspections, seizures and destructions and hotwash
• Mexico Medfly outbreak
• Evaluating cargo/aircraft as a pathway for Japanese beetle

While Covid 19 curtailed many of the meetings the NPB members would normally have attended, as you can see we have remained highly active. Please feel free to reach out to me, or any NPB member, with questions about NPB activities.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Julie Van Meter
President, National Plant Board President
The State Agriculture Technology Officers (SATO) group was formed at the beginning 2017. The primary driver for this group coming together is to increase collaboration among state IT leaders in agriculture, enabling gains in efficiency and effectiveness.

We have similar challenges and there is no reason we can’t share solutions! When situations arise that affect some, or all of the states, we tend to address them in isolation. So we are solving those problems alone as opposed to attacking them as a consortium. This scenario tends to favor vendors in our industry in that they can financially benefit from solving the same problem, over-and-over again! While we are fortunate to have many good vendors in IT, there are also questionable ones and you may never know that unless we are sharing information better than we do today. WE want to change that!

SATO, is building a platform for collaboration and invites every state to participate. Since our inception, we have had several online interactive sessions. These events are not so much a presentation / Q&A format, but more of a discussion format. Typically, a topic of interest is raised and one state will take the lead to share experiences, solutions, best practices, etc. The group connects us together as IT leaders in Agriculture and also provides an opportunity to solve problems once by collaboration on a solution that works for multiple states and then share it.

Our focus this year has been; the creation of a new regulatory platform for Agriculture and Food Safety, managing the impact of Covid-19 from a technology perspective and dealing with a remote workforce, and new technology like Block chain and how it fits with Agriculture. The future platform is a collaborative effort guided by a 10-state governance council, the System for Agriculture, Food, Health, E-Inspections and Registration (SAFHER) initiative will release an RFI to the public the first week of August.

Below is a list of the current SATO board and participating states. We would like to include any state not on the list to join, there is no cost and unlimited potential benefit for agriculture in the United States.

**SATO board members are:**
- Rich Medina (Colorado) – Chairperson
- Open – Vice Chair
- Open – Secretary

**Participating states:**

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