



Honor Awards Guidelines

ABOUT

Since 1972, NASDA has conducted our annual honor awards program for employees of the state departments of agriculture. It has become an important part of our annual meeting program and gives recognition to outstanding professionals who work for NASDA members.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Please review the eligibility description for each award. **Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors are not eligible for these awards.** This program is meant to give recognition to outstanding professionals who work for or with NASDA Members. View past recipients [here](#).

WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

Please submit your nominations online [here](#). If you are having difficulty using the online system, please contact Amanda Culp at amanda@nasda.org. Applications are due by 12:00 PM ET on Monday July 30.

WHEN WILL RECIPIENTS BE HONORED?

The recipient of each award will be honored at the NASDA Annual Meeting during the President's Banquet on Wednesday, September 12. In addition to the award, the recipient will receive one complimentary room night at the venue and a complimentary one day registration for the meeting. An award selection is only made in the years which a suitable candidate is found.

Douglass-Irvin Administration Award

A large, stylized yellow arrow graphic pointing to the right, positioned below the section header.

Purpose: Recognition of outstanding contributions within a state agency resulting in improved efficiency and impact.

Eligibility: The nominee must be an employee of a state department of agriculture who works in administration, operations, regulatory or policy areas. The recipient will be chosen from among the candidates whose work has contributed to successful outcomes. Eligible nominators include any supervisor or peer in the state agency that is familiar with the nominee's service. Individuals may self-nominate.

Basis for selection: Selection from among the eligible candidates will be based upon achievement within the last year (or cumulative over several years) in their area of work within a state department of agriculture including the following: administration, operations, regulatory or policy functions. The recipient will have administered his or her duties while exhibiting superior performance and achieving major contributions to improved efficiency and impact as a member of the staff team.

Material Required for [Electronic Submission](#):

1. A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's contribution to the state agency resulting in improved efficiency and impact.
2. A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

The Douglass-Irvin Administration Award was named for West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Gus Douglass and Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin. Commissioner Douglass administered the West Virginia Department of Agriculture from 1965 to 1989 and again from 1993 to 2013. He is the longest-serving agriculture commissioner in U.S. history. Commissioner Irvin administered the Georgia Department of Agriculture from 1969 to 2011. He is the longest consecutive-serving agriculture commissioner in U.S. history.

Communications Award



Purpose: Recognition of outstanding work in media and public communications within a state agency resulting in improved understanding of agriculture and agricultural programs.

Eligibility: Nominee must be an employee of a state department of agriculture whose job responsibility is in the area of communications. The recipient will be chosen from among the candidates whose work has contributed to successful outcomes. Eligible nominators include any peer in the state agency who is familiar with the nominee's service. Individuals may self-nominate.

Basis for selection: Selection from among the eligible candidates will be based upon achievement within the last year (or cumulative over several years) in the communications area of work within a state department of agriculture including, but not limited to, the following: print media, radio, television, social media, video production, blogging, and graphic design. The recipient will have administered his or her duties while exhibiting superior performance and achieving major contributions as a communications officer or other position with similar duties.

Material Required for [Electronic Submission](#):

1. A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's contribution in communications for the state agency resulting in improved understanding of the state agency's mission and/or role in the agriculture industry.
2. A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

James A. Graham Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture



Purpose: Recognition of outstanding work in providing service to agricultural producers.

Eligibility: Nominee must be an employee of a state department of agriculture whose job responsibility is in any area that provides direct or indirect service to agricultural producers. The recipient will be chosen from among the candidates whose work has contributed to successful outcomes. Eligible nominators include any peer in the state agency who is familiar with the nominee's service. Individuals may self-nominate.

Basis for selection: Selection from among the eligible candidates will be based upon achievement within the last year (or cumulative over several years) within a state department of agriculture. The recipient will have administered his or her duties while exhibiting superior performance and achieving major contributions to agricultural producers in the state, region or nationally.

Material Required for [Electronic Submission](#):

1. A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's contributions in the state, region or nationally resulting in improved service to agricultural producers.
2. A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

This award is named in honor of North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture James Allen Graham. Serving from 1964 to 2001, Graham was the longest serving agriculture commissioner in the state's history. During his years as agriculture commissioner, Jim Graham secured funding for a number of outstanding programs and facilities for agriculture and consumer services. He developed a network of five state-owned farmers markets and three agricultural centers and seven animal disease diagnostic laboratories across the state.

NASDA Ambassador's Circle Award



Purpose: Recognition of dedicated and distinguished support of NASDA.

Eligibility: Nominee can be any person (farmer, rancher, government official, academia, alumni, industry leader, etc.) who has worked for or with NASDA cumulatively over several years. This is intended to recognize external partners of NASDA. For this reason, **nominees cannot be a current NASDA Member or employee of a state department of agriculture.** Nominees must have supported NASDA via leadership, personal effort and dedication regarding the organization's Mission and Strategic Intent. The candidate's distinguished support has been impactful and influential in advancing agriculture in the

states and contributed to successful outcomes for NASDA. Eligible nominators include any peer in the state agency or NASDA staff team who is familiar with the nominee's service.

Basis for selection: Selection from among the eligible candidates will be based upon a broad level of support and achievement for NASDA. The recipient will have personally led, partnered, administered, or executed an effort that has been impactful to NASDA, while exhibiting distinguished leadership and superior service toward advancing agriculture in the states and territories.

Material Required for [Electronic Submission](#):

1. A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's leadership and contributions to NASDA's mission.
2. A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

NEW! For 2018: NASDA Public-Private Partnership Award



Purpose: To recognize [Partners Program](#) organizations that have partnered with a state to implement a program, project or service that positively impacts its state.

Eligibility: Each NASDA Member is invited to nominate one Partners Program organization for work in his or her state that demonstrates a significant investment at the state level and delivers substantial benefits to the state. Nominated projects must involve collaboration and shared responsibility between state government and a Partners Program organization. This award recognizes initiatives that deliver a valuable public benefit, service, or resource that positively impacts the state. Nominated partnerships should focus on areas of priority for NASDA Members, in the areas of agriculture, food, and the environment.

Basis for selection: Selection from among the eligible candidates will be evaluated on benefits to state, cost savings to the state and/or added value, and collaboration.

Material Required for [Electronic Submission](#):

1. A letter of nomination from a NASDA Member including an addendum (no more than 3 pages) that provides an overview and background of the partnership; explains the respective roles of the organization and state government; describes the goals of the partnership and measures of success; and describes the benefits to the state.
2. Optional: Supporting materials, such as letters of support, press releases and/or testimonials.