



# National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

## 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. **NASDA members are the top leaders of agricultural policy** and regulation in their states, and they rely on scientifically grounded policy to **manage environmental, economic and social issues in their states**. 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

Through an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture since 1972, NASDA employs over 3,000 individuals across the nation to **collect data on agricultural production**. This data contributes to the National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture. These **statistics are vital for the agriculture economy and reduce risk in production, marketing and distribution operations**. This data is also essential for making educated policy decisions and guiding innovative research.

### Showcasing America's Best

In partnership with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service's Market Access Program, **NASDA creates market opportunities** for farmers and small businesses by **inviting international buyers to sample American grown products**. Twice each year, NASDA conducts two tradeshow for small food businesses to showcase their products and gain access to international markets they may not have been able to reach otherwise.

### 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.

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CEO: Dr. Barb Glenn  
President: New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte





# NASDA POLICY PRIORITIES

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

NASDA seeks an updated animal biotechnology regulatory process that ensures that products derived from the technology are approved in a timely manner. NASDA also understands the need to have open dialogue with consumers about this new technology, so it supports education initiatives to explain the benefits of modernizing animal agriculture. With informed consumers and a regulatory process that considers the intricate nature of this technology, we can foster innovation and meet producer, consumer and societal needs.

**Read more about our policy engagement and view our full spectrum of policy positions at [www.nasda.org/policy](http://www.nasda.org/policy).**

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