Dear Colleagues,

It has been a fun and exciting ride, and I cannot thank you enough for it. Serving as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture this past year has been one of the high points of my professional career.

Together, we have accomplished much. The 2008 Farm Bill has NASDA’s fingerprints all over it, thanks to our determination to stand together behind our policy proposals. Time and again, NASDA members set aside regional and partisan differences to present a united front for American agriculture. We did not, individually or collectively, get everything we wanted in the new Farm Bill; however, we can point with pride at what was accomplished – interstate shipment of state-inspected meat products, specialty crop provisions, a permanent disaster program and more.

NASDA members also tackled regional issues through their work in NEASDA, SASDA, MASDA and WASDA. It was a pleasure to participate in all of these regional meetings and to learn about the issues and concerns of producers and policymakers elsewhere in the country.

The added weight of Farm Bill issues helped make 2008 a very difficult year for our NASDA staff, and they responded by pulling together to meet every challenge. Their efforts gave NASDA greater respect and greater clout with Washington policymakers. Each and every one of our staff deserves our appreciation and thanks. I especially want to thank our outgoing executive director, Rick Kirchhoff, for his leadership at NASDA.

Our experience with the 2008 Farm bill has demonstrated that NASDA can make a difference. We must work now to raise our profile in Washington with a stronger presence on Capitol Hill. We must deal with organizational challenges, notably our financial position. I am confident that with the leadership of Ron Sparks as our new president, NASDA will emerge stronger and more effective than ever.

Knowing all of you, working with you and learning from you has made me a better public servant, and for that I will always be grateful. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson
NASDA President 2007-2008
North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner
MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to represent the state departments of agriculture in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policy and programs which support and promote the American agricultural industry, while protecting consumers and the environment.

NASDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

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**Policy Accomplishments**

**NASDA Focuses on 2008 Farm Bill**
Since the 2008 Farm Bill was signed into law in early June 2008, NASDA has turned its attention to the implementation process. The fifteen titles of the legislation will require a large number of new program rules, administrative guidance and funding authorities. NASDA has taken a pro-active approach to ensure the 2008 Farm Bill is implemented in a timely and efficient manner with early input from the state departments of agriculture.

Many of NASDA’s priority issues are included in the legislation, including provisions on disaster assistance, interstate meat sales, specialty crop block grants, renewable energy production, school nutrition, and conservation. Some of NASDA’s implementation activities are highlighted below.

**Interstate Meat Sales**
NASDA met with senior USDA officials in July 2008 to discuss the new Title V program that will allow state-inspected meat and poultry products to be sold across state borders. NASDA and its affiliate organization, the National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors (NASM-FID), are preparing detailed comments to USDA.

**Specialty Crops**
NASDA recommendations regarding the Specialty Crops Block Grant program were included in the 2008 Farm Bill, including mandatory program funding. NASDA has been working with the Agriculture Marketing Service of USDA to ensure full implementation of the block grant program. Future efforts will focus on ensuring that Congress’s intent to fully fund the program is carried out.

**Animal & Plant Health**
Keeping foreign pests and diseases from getting established and assessing the potential economic impact from existing pests and diseases remain high priorities for state departments of agriculture. Funding for a new pest and disease management and disaster prevention program was included in the 2008 Farm Bill. The new program is an adjunct to the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program and the emergency funding for foreign pest and disease eradication that the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the states receive when foreign pest and diseases are found in the US. While increased cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security’s Agriculture Quarantine Inspection, through the newly created Advisory Committee, is aimed at excluding pests and diseases, the new program will also allow states to increase efforts to detect pests and diseases that make it through the defenses at the borders at higher risk locations.

Emergency response concerns regarding animal and plant health issues remain priorities for NASDA and its members. Emphasis on institu-
Policy Accomplishments

tionalizing and expanding collaboration methods and opportunities between the states and APHIS continued.

FARM LABOR REFORM

NASDA continues to work with the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR) to urge support for the enactment of bipartisan agricultural labor reform legislation. Among the organizations leading the reform effort are the American Nursery and Landscape Association and the National Council of Agricultural Employers. The AgJOBS legislation (S. 359, H.R. 884, the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2005) builds upon years of discussion and ideas from growers, farm worker advocates and immigration issue groups and intends to provide a more stable, secure, safe and legal U.S. agricultural work.

NATURAL RESOURCE & PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

In early 2008, Utah Agriculture Commissioner Leonard Blackham was selected to represent NASDA and the state agriculture departments on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) first-ever Advisory Committee on Farm, Ranch & Rural Communities. The committee will advise the EPA Administrator on issues impacting farms, ranches and rural communities. EPA has asked the committee to focus on specific issues related to renewable energy, climate change, environmental strategies for livestock operations, and sustainable agriculture.

NASDA’s Natural Resource & Pesticide Management Committee led by Blackham and Vice-Chairman Bill Northey, Iowa’s agriculture secretary, held a conference call in April 2008 with senior EPA officials and submitted comments on the agency’s policies on agricultural burning, air quality and prescribed fires. NASA also held a conference call with EPA officials to provide state input on renewable fuels issues.

In Spring 2008, NASDA submitted comments to EPA on proposed rules for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and emergency reporting requirements under hazardous waste laws (Superfund) for agricultural air releases.

BIOENERGY

America’s farms and ranches are increasingly seen as a promising source of clean, renewable, home-grown energy. U.S. agriculture has a vast potential for the development and production of renewable energy resources—biomass, biodiesel, and ethanol—from agriculture commodities, livestock manures, forest products, agricultural crop residues, food processing byproducts, and other biomass products. NASDA supports the investment in agriculture as an energy source, including increase funding for incentives and research in renewable energy production from farm and forest biomass.
and the funding of construction of distribution and transmission infrastructures to commercially deliver biomass energy to consumers.

**FOOD REGULATION & NUTRITION**

In April 2008, NASDA released a 50-state survey on regulation and sale of raw milk. In August 2008, NASDA participated in a high-level 50-state meeting hosted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with state agriculture and health department officials to address a new framework for ensuring the nation’s food is safe and secure. The purpose of the meeting was to get state and local input on the development of a national, integrated system that addresses the global food and feed supply. Some of the key issues addressed by the teams were: (1) communication; (2) tracebacks and recall management; (3) resources, personnel, and equipment; (4) roles and responsibilities of local, state, and federal partners; (5) laboratory resources; and (6) food defense. South Dakota Agriculture Secretary Bill Even and American Samoa Acting Director of Agriculture Peter Gurr represented NASDA, along with a majority of senior food safety officials from state agriculture departments. NASDA affiliate organizations participating in the meeting included the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), the National Association of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO), and the National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors (NASMFID).

**FOOD & AGRICULTURE SECURITY**

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson, South Dakota Agriculture Secretary Bill Even, and Vermont Agriculture Secretary Roger Allbee represent NASDA on the Administration’s Government Coordinating Council for the Food & Agriculture Sector. The council was established to coordinate homeland security activities between local, state and federal governments and the private sector. Recent efforts have focused on improved communications and developing infrastructure protection plans for the food and agriculture sector. In May 2008, Hugoson participated in a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) workshop to address proposed chemical security rules for agriculture.

Throughout 2007 and 2008, NASDA has provided comments requested by the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee and the Senate Health, Education and Labor Committee on draft legislation for agriculture and food defense. Both the House and Senate plan to address agricultural biosecurity legislation in 2009.
NASDA Welcomes New Executive Director

STEPHEN HATERIUS was raised in Texas on a cotton, wheat, and cattle farm in the Ericksdahl Community in Jones County. He continues to operate the family farm today. He was active in 4-H and participated in athletics while attending Stamford High School.

After graduating, he attended West Texas State University in Canyon on a football scholarship receiving a BS degree in Biology and Chemistry. He went on to complete his MA degree in Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Following college, he spent many years in Texas public schools serving as teacher and coach at several schools before completing his public education career as a school administrator in his hometown of Stamford.

In 1992, he and his wife, Virginia, moved to Arlington, Virginia, where he spent the first three years as Special Assistant for Agriculture in the office of Representative Charles Stenholm of Texas. He became Chief of Staff and Minority Staff Director of the House Agriculture Committee where he managed a staff of 30 people and a $3.5 million budget. Haterius oversaw all activities of the Committee and related offices, playing a major role in all personnel and legislative policymaking decisions for Stenholm, including the 2002 Farm Bill legislative process.

In 2005 they moved to Dallas, Texas, where he taught Biology until returning to Virginia this September.

He is a lifelong member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Ericksdahl, Texas.

NASDA Cooperative Agreements

NASDA/NASS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Since 1978, NASDA and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) have continuously operated a cooperative program for agricultural data collection in 49 states. The program’s objective is to serve the United States, its agricultural producers, and rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information and services. Under the cooperative agreement, NASDA employs over 3,700 part-time statistical enumerators who collect and supply to NASS statistical data from both on-farm and telephone surveys with farm and ranch operators.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is a crucial tool that will provide farmers with a voice in the future of their community and all of agriculture. Last September, NASDA members recorded 60-second radio spots featuring individual state commissioners, secretaries, and directors of agriculture talking about the importance of the Census of Agriculture to the farms and rural communities in their respective states.
Conducted every five years by the USDA, the Census is a complete count of the Nation’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the Nation. Census data, in both electronic and print formats, will be released February 4, 2009. Detailed reports will be published for all counties, states and the nation.

**NASDA/APHIS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

NASDA and APHIS have continued their cooperative agreement, initiated in 2003. Interactions between NASDA, the states and APHIS have increased considerably. The desire for a high degree of communication, cooperation and collaboration on issues of mutual interest continue as a high priority. Setting up routine and episodic teleconference briefings have become the rule; sharing information in a timely manner between the partners has also resulted from the agreement. The agreement has also allowed for more in-depth involvement between the state and federal partners. Special projects, to assure consistency between states and the federal government and more timely and sophisticated communications during an emergency, will also further enhance this long-term relationship.

**NASDA/EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

The NASDA Research Foundation (NASDARF) is in the fourth year of a five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Pesticide Programs (EPA/OPP) to develop and improve pesticide safety programs for agricultural workers, pesticide handlers, applicators and health providers. The depth and range of the grant activities over the past year continues to be a testimony to the successful collaboration among NASDARF, EPA/OPP, State Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service of the USDA and a wide range of agricultural stakeholder interests including the National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA), CropLife Latin America, American Association of Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE), Environmental Resource Council and the Worker Justice Fund.

Among the major accomplishments over the past year are: Expanded use of the Core Manual as a result of collaborative efforts with states such as Pennsylvania, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Michigan; completion of a national exam for aerial applicators; establishment of a continuing education program for the medical profession on the recognition and treatment of pesticide exposures which also includes as a major component, the safe use of pesticides; completion of a training video on recommended pesticide decontamination procedures; completion of an English version of a Train the Trainer Handbook for pesticide safety trainers which is the basis for a Spanish version expected next year and the initiation of a national rights-of-way training and certification program.
NASDA’s Special Projects

TRI-NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ACCORD
NASDA members, along with the state secretaries of agriculture and rural development in Mexico and the provincial ministers of agriculture in Canada, continue to work to identify opportunities to resolve trade-related issues in the NAFTA countries. The State of Idaho hosted the 18th annual meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord in August 2008. Secretaries, Commissioners, Directors, Ministers and senior government officials from five Canadian provinces, six Mexican states, and 14 U.S. States worked together to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among the agricultural sectors of the three NAFTA countries. Dialogue was initiated regarding better ways to focus interim meetings so as to continually improve the benefits gained through participation in the Accord. Manitoba will host the 19th Meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord in 2009.

NASDA/COSDA/APHIS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN
In 2003, NASDA, COSDA and APHIS entered into an emergency communications plan. This year the agreement has been updated and will be re-signed by the various parties. The plan spells out how the states will receive information regarding emergencies. This is a part of an overall plan to increase the collaboration between state and federal partners.

NASDA/APHIS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT
Day jobs at the state level are increasingly viewed as exercises in crisis management, as dealing with invasive pests and diseases have become the norm. Since 9/11 the states realize more and more the necessity of seamless programs between the states and APHIS. Knowing how collaboration will occur is critically important. Practicing the highly skilled performance needed to deal with emergency programs during unintentional events is superb preparation for intentional assaults on animal and plant health. To meet these needs, NASDA and APHIS, along with many of the state affiliate groups, collectively made recommendations on better methods to collaborate. Further discussions continue to implement and test these program improvements.

AQIS QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS
Through the Agricultural Quality Inspection Service (AQIS), a nonprofit subsidiary of NASDA, NASDA has been responsible for:

- The administrative functions of the U.S. Peanut Quality Assurance Program through a cooperative agreement with the Agricultural Marketing Service.
- The management of the commodity quality inspection program for the state of Maine, employing 15 people.
- Recruitment and management of 12 to 15 pesticide and animal health inspectors, support and administrative staff to assist the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources’ Environmental Policy and Compliance Assistance Program to improve compliance and institute best environmental practices.
U.S. FOOD EXPORT SHOWCASE

After a fifteen-year show partnership with the Food Marketing Institute’s (FMI) Supermarket Industry trade show in Chicago ending in 2007, NASDA partnered with NASFT’s (National Association For the Specialty Food Trade) Midwest Fancy Food Show and the Organic Trade Association’s (OTA) All Things Organic event to form the Global Food & Style Expo. A number of states participated in the USFES, some individually (Georgia, South Carolina), and a number of others as part of pavilions sponsored by WUSATA and Food Export Midwest and Northeast.

According to Exhibit Surveys, Inc. (and independent company solely dedicated to trade show evaluation), exhibitors and attendees at the 2008 show considered the GFSE a key food industry event.

The event attracted international buyers with strong retail and foodservice connections from eighty-nine countries. Large numbers attended from Canada, China, Mexico, Australia, and Japan.

USFES exhibits were about sixteen percent of the total event, but attracted more than a fourth of the international visitors’ time.

While both NASDA and OTA considered the 2008 GFSE a successful launch of a new event, NASFT decided in June to pull out of the partnership and concentrate on their East and West coast events.

The USFES concept, founded on attracting buyers from every corner of the world, depends on having a relatively large event. Because the departure of NASFT has a significant impact on the event size, NASDA has decided to put the USFES event on hold pending an appropriate partnership with a suitable partner or partners.

THE AMERICAN FOOD FAIR

May 16-19, 2009 – McCormick Place – Chicago, Illinois

The 10th NASDA sponsored American Food Fair pavilion at the National Restaurant Association (NRA) Show in Chicago promises to be a continued tradition of success. The NRA Show is the world’s number one event for the foodservice and hotel industries – the place where a visitor can find virtually any product related to operating a hotel or restaurant.

Each year the show provides an opportunity for international attendees to take restaurant tours, attend educational programs specific to the hotel and foodservice industry. Over 50,000 (not including exhibitor personnel) attended the 2008 show, and almost 6,000 of those were international attendees from 102 countries, including Canada, China, Singapore, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Australia, just to name a few.

For the ninth consecutive year, NASDA worked in partnership with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) posts around the world to promote the 2008 event. NASDA’s representative in China, Lee’s Market Makers, collaborated closely with FAS posts in China to organize a Chinese group of 181 visitors.
The AFF Pavilion has experienced slow but steady growth – from about 2,400 net square feet to 7,200 (from 2004 to 2008) and a projected 9,000 square feet in 2009. As the NASA/NRA relationship has evolved over the years, NASA and FAS – with the assistance of FAS posts - have provided increased assistance to NRA’s international attendance promotion campaign. NASA plans to continue and strengthen the relationship with NRA and the AFF Pavilion for the foreseeable future, and to work closely with NRA to further improve international attendance promotion.

**The Americas Food & Beverage Show**

*September 24-26, 2008 Miami Beach Convention Center – Miami, Florida  
November 9-10, 2009 Miami Beach Convention Center – Miami, Florida*

Since 1998, the World Trade Center Miami (WTCM) has organized the Americas Food and Beverage Show for the purpose of fostering two-way trade within the Western Hemisphere. For the tenth year, the recently concluded 2007 show continued to demonstrate solid progress.

Meanwhile, NASA and FAS continue to sponsor the USA Pavilion and provide special matching services through Efficient Collaborative Retail Marketing (ECRM) to assist exhibitors with specific appointments during the show. Working with ECRM will allow exhibitors to improve their promotional activities by expanding their exposure to well-matched buyers who are capable of distributing to stores, restaurants and hotels in targeted countries, thus increasing their sales.

NASA applied FAS funding toward improved attendance promotion through improved generic promotions and specific activities working with 13 Western Hemisphere posts and the WTCM. NASA has focused specifically on upgrading the USA Pavilion, and improving communications between WTCM and FAS posts.

In addition, NASA has commissioned a professional study to determine the best dates for the event; results have concluded that early November is the optimal time for a high-attendance turn-out at the show. In 2009, the show will move back to November 9-10.

**FAS Cooperative Projects**

**International Trade Shows**

In addition to domestic trade shows, NASA partners with FAS on two other important activities.

First, NASA annually apportions funding from the Market Access Program toward the improvement of US pavilions at more than fifteen trade shows outside the US, including Anuga (Germany), the SIAL (France, China, Canada) events, several of the Food and Hotel (China, Singapore, etc.) events, and Foodex (Japan). These funds help restore balance to the trade
show playing field where US companies (and the US pavilion) are frequently competing for attention against lavishly funded foreign pavilions.

WEB-BASED DATA
For the past several years, NASDA and FAS have worked in concert with a private industry consultant to put critical buyers and seller information into a real-time, web-based setting. Each FAS post overseas has its own data management interface (DMI), allowing immediate updates, searches and transmission of information. Each state and SRTG will have an equivalent DMI. Because all data is now categorized by a consistent set of BICO codes, there are tremendous opportunities to match buyers and sellers.

At this writing, FAS is conducting a test (involving several states and FAS posts) prior to reviving and old but previously ineffective concept – "trade leads". New trade leads will benefit from specific targeting and greatly expanded input from a wide variety of sources. Stay tuned!

Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA)
Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO)
Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)
Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO)
Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO)
Association of American Warehouse Control Officials (AAWCO)
Association of Food and Drug Officials of the United States (AFDO)
Assn. of Fruit and Vegetable Inspection and Standardization Agencies (AFVISA)
Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA)
Communication Officers of State Departments of Agriculture (COSDA)
Dairy Division of NASDA
International Association of Milk Control Agencies (IAMCA)
National Association of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO)
National Association of Agricultural Fair Agencies (NAAFA)
National Association of State Agriculture Technology Officials (NASATO)
National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC)
National Assn. of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors (NASMFID)
National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP)
National Egg Regulatory Officials (NERO)
National Plant Board (NPB)
North American Agricultural Marketing Officials (NAAMO)
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Amy Mann, Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
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Megan McDonald, Projects Coordinator
Dick Herrett, Pesticide Worker Safety Consultant
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NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of the State and Territorial Departments of Agriculture.