

2002
NASDA's Farm Policy Initiative

Ensuring Profitability and Viability of U.S. Agriculture: The Tools to Succeed

Framework Document

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
March, 2000

Ensuring Profitability and Viability of U.S. Agriculture: The Tools to Succeed

Framework Document

Statement of Purpose:

The business of producing food and fiber for America and the world is changing rapidly. Policy makers need to be aware of these changes to make prudent policy decisions that will ensure the survivability and enhance the profitability of U.S. agricultural producers. State and federal policies can either enhance change, or be an impediment to change. Understanding the shifting dynamics in food and fiber production, and developing strategic policies to enhance our competitiveness, will help position American agriculture to benefit from the opportunities that change will create.

Over the next 18 months, NASDA will analyze these forces of change and develop a comprehensive set of proposals for Congress and the Administration to consider as the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 expires.

This framework document establishes the guiding principles of the final report; identifies key priority issues to be included in NASDA's 2002 Farm Policy; organizes those issues for study; and provides a focus to the overall project. This framework is intended to be the "blueprint" by which each of the policy committees completes work on its assigned issues.

Preamble:

The following guiding principles will be set out and discussed in the preamble of the report:

- 1) Profitability: A financially healthy and profitable agricultural sector is essential for America's food security and environmental quality.
- 2) Farmers and ranchers must have equitable economic power to ensure opportunities for fair competition (i.e. a "level playing field").
- 3) NASDA's recommended policies will be market-based and non-trade distorting, but there must be appropriate safeguards (i.e. access to information, anti-trust enforcement, etc) to ensure opportunities for fair competition.
- 4) Government regulatory policies and programs should be flexible, and to the maximum extent based on voluntary and incentive-based approaches. Regulation should be "appropriate" and based upon national goals, but controlled and implemented locally through programs that are functionally equivalent but tailored to unique circumstances.
- 5) Sound science must be the basis for domestic and trade policy.
- 6) NASDA's recommended policies and programs will emphasize the role of the states in program delivery through partnerships and pilot projects.

Scope and Format:

The report will profile the US food production “system” by examining six key sectors and exploring individual issues within each sector. Using NASDA’s existing policy committees, the issues will be assigned to the appropriate committee of jurisdiction for examination and recommendation. The sectors and issues initially identified by the Management Committee are:

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U.S. Agriculture Profile (Sectors)	Opportunities and Constraints	Tools to Succeed (Policies/Options)
PRODUCTION (Note: There are specific issues identified within each sector.)	Borrowing from the strategic planning principle of identifying issues and solutions through an “opportunities/constraints” analysis, this section of the framework document will analyze the domestic and global situation relevant to the key issues.	<p>This section of the framework document will identify the “Tools to Succeed” – that is, the policies and programs which will enhance the profitability and ensure the viability of U.S. farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Existing NASDA policy corresponding to the key issues will be identified and reviewed, along with significant concepts and proposals put forward by agricultural organizations, Congress, the Administration and others.</p> <p>NASDA’s recommended policies will be consistent with the guiding principles set forth in the pre-amble and will give special focus on the role of the States in program delivery.</p>
RISK MANAGEMENT	Using this approach will allow the committees to ask critical questions and think through the issues.	
MARKETS	The questions may take issue with traditional assumptions, probe for reasoning, solicit evidence or ponder the implications or consequences of either changing or keeping the status quo.	
TRANSPORTATION	The “thought processes” of the committees will also serve as the basis for the identifying the kinds of data and additional information likely to be of use when the committees begin to formulate solutions.	
STEWARDSHIP	The information from the “thought processes” will also generate the context in which the issues are discussed and solutions presented in the final report.	
TECHNOLOGY		

NASDA 2002 Farm Policy Initiative: Project Timeline

Task	Who	When	Status
•Research Phase	NASDA Staff	Complete by June 30, 1999	Completed
•Scoping Phase	Standing Committees	July through Sept, 1999	Completed
•Compile Framework Document	Management Group	Oct 1999 through Feb, 2000	Completed
•Discussion of Framework Document	Management Group	Mid-Year 2000 Meeting	Completed
•Reports from Committee Chairs	Committee Chairs	Mid-Year 2000 Meeting	Completed
•Information Gathering/ Issues Analysis/Policy Formulation	Standing Committees	Mar through Dec. 2000	Ongoing
•Progress Discussion	Committee Chairs	Ann. Meeting (OH) Sept. 2000	
Presidential, Congressional, and State Elections New Administration and Congress Takes Office		November, 2000	
•Compile and distribute initial draft document	Management Group	January, 2001	(potential new NASDA members)
•Progress discussion	Committee Chairs	January/February, 2001	
•Final Writing Phase	Standing Committees	Mid-Year 2001 Meeting	
•Compile and distribute semi-final draft document	Management Group	Mar through May, 2001	
•Discussion at Regional Meetings	President and EVP	June 1, 2001	
•Edit and Distribute Final Document	Management Group	June-August, 2001	
•Discussion of Final Document (final vote)	Membership	August, 2001	
•Document Production and Release	To be Determined	Ann Meeting (VT) Sept. 2001	
•Briefings for Congress and Administration	To be Determined	Fall, 2001	
Congress and Administration draft farm bills	estimated	February, 2002	
Congress votes on Farm Bill	estimated	July/August, 2002	

*CSG= Council of State Governments

Progress Reports:

In addition to progress reports by the committee chairs at each NASDA annual and mid-year meeting, a special section (**2002 Farm Policy Initiative**) will be set up in the “*Members Only*” area of NASDA’s website.

Any member will be able to check on progress and any aspect of the document at any time. As committees complete work on sections, a running “working draft” of the entire document will be available on the web at all times.

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Issues Assignments to Committees

Animal and Plant Industries	Food Regulation and Nutrition	Environment and Natural Resources	Marketing and International Trade	Pesticide Regulation	Rural Development and Financial Security
Issue Assignments	Issue Assignments	Issue Assignments	Issue Assignments	Issue Assignments	Issue Assignments
PRODUCTION •Management Skills	PRODUCTION •Management Skills	PRODUCTION •Management Skills	PRODUCTION •Management Skills	PRODUCTION •Management Skills	PRODUCTION •Tax Policy •Access to Capital •Ag. Credit •Management Skills •Information/ Education/ Technical Assistance •Small/Large Farms •Dairy Policy •Beginning Farmers •Labor Supply
RISK MANAGEMENT	RISK MANAGEMENT	RISK MANAGEMENT	RISK MANAGEMENT •Private Sector Tools •Information Access	RISK MANAGEMENT	RISK MANAGEMENT •AMTA vs. Supply Management •Public Safety Net •Private Sector Tools •Crop Insurance
MARKETS	MARKETS •Access •Consumer Preference •Mass vs. Niche	MARKETS	MARKETS •Structural Change •Access •Trade Policy •Promotion •Consumer Preference	MARKETS	MARKETS
TRANSPORTATION •Safeguarding Plants and Animals	TRANSPORTATION •Food Safety	TRANSPORTATION	TRANSPORTATION •Cargo Preference Policy	TRANSPORTATION	TRANSPORTATION •Infrastructure
STEWARDSHIP •Safeguarding Plants and Animals •Emergency Preparation	STEWARDSHIP •Safe Food -Residues -Pathogens -Terrorism	STEWARDSHIP •Environmental Resources -Water -Air -Land •Farm Land Preservation	STEWARDSHIP •Safeguarding Plants and Animals •Safe Food -International Standards	STEWARDSHIP •Environmental Resources -Water -Air -Land •Safe Food -Residues	STEWARDSHIP
TECHNOLOGY •Research and Development •GMOs/Biotechnology	TECHNOLOGY •Research and Development •GMOs/Biotechnology •Food Safety	TECHNOLOGY •Research and Development •Geographic Information Systems	TECHNOLOGY •Research and Development •GMOs/Biotechnology •Internet •New Uses	TECHNOLOGY •Research and Development •Geographic Information Systems •Internet	TECHNOLOGY •Research and Development •Internet

