

## **NASDA's 2007 Farm Bill Highlights**

### Economic Safety Net for Producers

- Maintain marketing loans and counter-cyclical payments
- Expand crop insurance options with an emphasis on whole farm revenue insurance
- Enact a permanently authorized disaster assistance program
- Payment limits must be clearly established and enforceable; the "three-entity rule" needs to be revised.
- GAO needs to study and report on the impact on land values of discontinuation of commodity programs to provide baseline for future policy discussions.

### Access to International Markets for U.S. agricultural products

- Support continuation of trade promotion authority
- Continue funding for Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development Program
- Maintain and enhance FAS Agricultural Trade Offices overseas
- Market Access for US biotech crops is important

### Support for Specialty Crop Producers

- Block grants to states
- Ensure that specialty crop producers have comparable access to USDA benefits

### Enhancing Environmental Quality through Conservation Partnerships

- Expand scope and eligibility of Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Enact stewardship partnership agreements with States
- Enhance the Farmland Protection Program
- Improve current USDA conservation programs

### Rural Development

- Enact farm/ranch profitability grants
- USDA-Rural Development programs need to be available for rural areas in proximity to metropolitan areas

### Providing Safe, Healthy, and Nutritious Food

- Expand the DoD Fresh and USDA Fruit and Vegetable pilot programs to all states
- Improve funding and delivery of nutrition programs
- Allow interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry
- Enact pre-harvest food quality assurance partnerships with States

### Support for bio-industry development with emphasis on energy production

- Implement the 25x25 agriculture energy initiative with emphasis on the development of alternative fuels from agriculture commodities and other biomass
- Make permanent the tax credits for ethanol and biodiesel
- Establish on-farm incentives to produce and utilize solar, wind, and biobased energy, including allowing use of CRP land for production of energy and biobased crops with commensurate payment reductions
- Develop a cellulosic/energy feedstock production base enrollment program using long term contracts

### Invasive Species

- Enhance non-native pest and disease identification and eradication/control programs consistent with safeguarding principles, e.g. expand prevention and early detection and rapid response programs
- Expand funding sources through a streamlined, dedicated appropriation with block grants to states to expand programs
- Continue emphasis on sound-science and SPS harmonization in trade agreements
- Improve inspection of cargo arrivals

#### Emergency Programs and Bio-security

- Expand state emergency programs for food and agriculture consistent with federal emergency preparedness and response programs
- Enhance animal identification programs to assure state and federal animal health objectives are met

#### Research and Information

- Ensure data collection needs are met
- Increase funding in research, extension, and education programs

#### Biotechnology

- Create a federal office to assure communications, cooperation and coordination of information between federal and state agencies

#### Role of States

- State departments of agriculture should be full partners with USDA in program delivery to producers through partnership agreements, block grants, and pilot projects

#### Other Critical Issues

- Availability of agricultural labor force through guest worker program
- Rivers, Rails and Roadways: Critical investments needed to maintain agriculture's competitiveness in world marketplace