

**2002**  
**NASDA's Farm Policy Initiative**

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**Working Document**

**on**

**STEWARDSHIP**

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**NASDA Mid-Year Meeting**  
**March 3-6, 2000**

U.S. Agriculture Profile	Opportunities	Constraints	Tools to Succeed (Policies/Options)
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>			
<p><b><i>Safeguarding Plants and Animals</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></b></p> <p><i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><i>Marketing &amp; International Trade Committee</i></p> <p><b><i>Issues:</i></b></p> <p><i>Basic Animal Health</i></p> <p><i>Biological Pest Control</i></p> <p><i>Integrated Crop and Pest Management</i></p> <p><i>NAFTA-Disease Testing Protocols</i></p> <p><i>Irradiation</i></p>	<p>Increase consumer confidence in agricultural products.</p> <p>Increased Production, cost savings in pest and weed control</p> <p>Innovative control methods could increase sales in overseas market</p>	<p>Inadequate funding levels.</p> <p>Increased cost in control and eradication.</p> <p>Sanitary and Phytosanitary Barriers to trade.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue and agreement among NAFTA members</li> <li>• Private Research &amp; Research from our land grant institutions is necessary to improve agricultural production.</li> <li>• If the federal government bans or quarantines a product, there needs to be guidelines for implementation of said ban. (Reimbursement to producer, methods, and timeline of action.)</li> <li>• Contractors must share risk with producers.</li> <li>• Biological Pest Control (2.4)</li> <li>• Integrated Crop Management (2.4)</li> <li>• Integrated Pest Management (2.4)</li> </ul> <p><b>1.1 INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>The need for basic and applied animal health protection and disease control research continues to demand attention. There is a critical need to strengthen integrated animal health management programs to facilitate the transfer of information and technology from laboratory to the producer/consumer. Research is needed to prevent introductions of pathogens into the food chain by developing methods to reduce or eliminate them from animals during production.</p> <p><b>1.2 FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES</b></p> <p>As international trade has increased, the threat of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease in the United States has also increased.</p> <p><b>2.4 STRATEGIES FOR CONTROLLING PESTS</b></p> <p><b><i>Biological Pest Control</i></b> — Classical biological control is a pest control strategy that involves the importation of new natural enemies to control introduced pests. The use of this strategy of pest</p>

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			<p>management is experiencing renewed attention because it is extremely cost effective and environmentally sound.</p> <p>Currently, there is no coordinated effort between the federal government and the state departments of agriculture to support and promote classical biological control at regional and national levels. NASDA believes that a coordinated approach is essential so as to encourage continued importation of new natural enemies into the United States.</p> <p>NASDA supports classic biological control in dealing with exotic pests and rangeland weeds.</p> <p><b>Irradiation</b> — NASDA believes that the USDA should encourage the use of irradiation for pest control. This is an important technology that can be applied to agricultural products to ensure a safe and healthy food supply.</p> <p><b>Integrated Crop Management and Integrated Pest Management</b> —Today's farmers and ranchers are being criticized for abusing our natural resources while still being asked to provide more and cheaper food. Two practices currently expanding in use are Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM should be implemented nationally to reduce the reliance on chemical pesticides and increase the use of non-chemical tools over the long term.</p>
<p><b>Emergency Preparation</b></p> <p><b>Committee(s) Assigned:</b></p> <p><i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><b>Issues:</b></p> <p><i>APHIS Reorganization and</i></p>	<p>Ability to control and eradicate foreign animal and poultry diseases.</p>	<p>Decrease in government infrastructure at state and federal level. Economic trade implications due to inability to control an outbreak are enormous.</p> <p>Increase in International Trade, threat of outbreak in U.S. also increases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHIS Consolidation and Reorganization (1.3)</li> <li>• Incorporate where possible state with federal employees.</li> <li>• If there is a shortage of federal employees, then state employees should be able to fill role.</li> <li>• counter-terrorism is an issue that needs further investigation</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES</b></p> <p>NASDA believes that disease control programs are essential if eradication of animal and poultry diseases and the prevention of the introduction or outbreak of foreign or domestic diseases is to be successful. Priority should be given to programs whose efforts are aimed at preventing the outbreak</p>

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<p><i>Consolidation</i> <i>Disease Control Programs</i></p>			<p>of animal health diseases and protecting our nation’s domestic livestock from foreign diseases. Valid tests should also be developed to properly detect diseases that pose a risk to animal health. Sufficient resources should be made available for such programs so that the appropriate agencies can provide indemnity to owners of diseased livestock, which will encourage the elimination of remaining infected herds, and maintain an adequate number of animal health professionals able to respond to animal health issues.</p> <p><b>1.3 APHIS REORGANIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION</b> USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering consolidating the following offices — Veterinary Services (VS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Wildlife Services, Animal Care, and Investigations and Enforcement Services — into two regional offices. NASDA commends APHIS for its efforts to seek efficiency within the federal government and to improve satisfaction of its constituencies. We strongly support the consolidation of APHIS programs into eastern and western regional offices as a cost savings measure, while maintaining accessibility by customers and partners. NASDA recommends that, to prevent negative impacts on services, costs for consolidation should not be taken from operational programs, but from agency overhead savings. Further, NASDA recognizes that plant and animal health issues may not be similar within the proposed consolidated regions and that current funding levels of programs in a particular region may be diminished due to priority setting as a result of the regional consolidation. NASDA urges APHIS to consider the plant and animal health needs of the states within the current regional composition when allocating program funding.</p>
<p><i>Safe Food</i></p> <p><i>*Residues</i> <i>*Pathogens</i> <i>* Terrorism</i></p> <p><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></p>	<p>Market foods as safest, wholesome, abundant, affordable.</p> <p>Increase guidance and education on pesticide policy.</p>	<p>Incidents of food-borne illness.</p> <p>Reports of pesticide dangers and food scares (ex: Alar).</p> <p>EPA reexamination of pesticides under FQPA may result in restrictions or bans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase state/fed efforts to educate consumers.</li> <li>• Reduced-risk pesticides, integrated pest management, precision farming, research.</li> <li>• Market foods as safest, wholesome, abundant, affordable.</li> <li>• FQPA implementation, pesticide risk determinations and methodology, data needs, minor uses, and consumer education. (9.1 &amp; 9.5)</li> <li>• Section 18 emergency uses, reduced risk pesticides, certification and training, and worker protection. (9.6 -9.9)</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Pesticide Regulation Committee</i></p> <p><i>Food Regulation &amp; Nutrition Committee</i></p> <p><i>Marketing &amp; International Trade Committee</i></p> <p><b>Issues:</b></p> <p><i>Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)</i></p> <p><i>Pesticide Data &amp; Research</i></p> <p><i>Minor Uses</i></p> <p><i>Section 18 Emergency Uses</i></p> <p><i>Harmonization of Pesticide Regulations</i></p> <p><i>Worker Protection Certification &amp; Training</i></p>	<p>Harmonization of pesticide policy and tolerances among trading partners.</p>	<p>Unreasonable public health concerns.</p> <p>Use as Trade Barrier.</p> <p>Cold-chain limitations.</p> <p>Potentially unsafe imported foods.</p> <p>Competitive edge for foreign growers.</p>	
<p><b><i>Environmental Resources</i></b></p> <p><b>*Water (Quality &amp; Quantity)</b></p> <p><b>*Air</b></p> <p><b>*Land</b></p> <p><b><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></b></p>	<p>Increase ability of producers to address environmental risks/impacts in farm operations.</p> <p>WTO “Green box” On-farm Regulation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green payments, green taxes &amp; bonds.</li> <li>• Link conservation payments to safety net.</li> <li>• New technologies (DNA testing for water quality, anaerobic digestion of animal waste).</li> <li>• “Equivalent” state programs as accountable alternatives to federal.</li> <li>• On-farm environmental assessments.</li> <li>• Cost-benefit analysis for environ regulations.</li> <li>• Compensation for unfunded mandates.</li> <li>• Establish State Revolving Fund (SRF) for nonpoint source pollution.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Natural Resources &amp; Environment Committee</i></p> <p><i>Pesticide Regulation Committee</i></p> <p><b>Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Resource Management Plans</li> <li>-Highly Erodible Lands</li> <li>-Wetlands Reserve Program</li> <li>-Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)</li> <li>-Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</li> <li>-Nutrient Management</li> <li>-Animal Waste Management</li> <li>-Integrated Pest Management</li> <li>-Biomass</li> <li>-Clean Water Act</li> <li>-Nonpoint Source Pollution</li> <li>-Total Max Daily Loads</li> <li>-Wetlands Management</li> <li>-Hypoxia</li> <li>-Endangered Species Act</li> <li>-Private Property Rights</li> <li>-Federal Land Management</li> <li>-Lands Legacy Initiative</li> <li>-Federal Wilderness Areas</li> <li>-Grazing/Range Management</li> </ul>	<p>Increased costs for producers.</p> <p>Lack of federal resources.</p> <p>Limited research and monitoring data/information.</p> <p>Unfunded mandates on states and producers.</p> <p>Costs of technology.</p> <p>Climate Change (Kyoto) Treaty and other agreements may result in competitive disadvantage for US and shift production.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NASDA policy 7.1 and 7.2 establishes foundation principles for cooperative partnerships, sound science, property rights, environmental assurance, and confidentiality of data.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 7.3 supports program “tools” such as incentives, technical and financial assistance through voluntary, best management practices and resource management programs. It also outlines goals for the Clean Water Act, including nonpoint source pollution, 319 program, and animal feeding operations.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 7.4 deals with implementation of the Clean Water Act, including designated uses, water quality criteria, antidegradation, TMDLs, and costal zone management.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 7.4 addresses pesticide management plans for groundwater, which is also addressed under NASDA Policy 9.1 for Pesticide Regulation.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 7.5 deals with water quantity.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 7.6 addresses threatened and endangered species.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 7.7 addresses wetlands management.</li> <li>• NASDA policy 8.1 - 8.4 deals with Federal Land Management, including grazing on public land, and federal wilderness areas.</li> <li>• NASDA has no policy on Clean Air Act issues or Global Climate Change, although foundation principles and sound science policy are indirectly related to the issues.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>-Clean Air Act</i>  <i>-Global Climate Change</i>  <i>-Regional Haze</i>  <i>-Particulate Matter</i></p>			
<p><b><i>Farm Land Preservation</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></b></p> <p><i>Natural Resources &amp; Environment Committee</i></p> <p><b><i>Issues:</i></b></p> <p><i>Lands Legacy Initiative</i>  <i>Livability Agenda</i>  <i>State and Federal Tax policies that encourage sprawl</i></p>	<p>Protect farmland, improve productivity and stewardship.</p>	<p>Urban/suburban sprawl increasing issue.</p> <p>Federal proposals potentially conflict with state/local needs/concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Administration’s Lands Legacy Initiative.</i></li> <li>• <i>Administration’s Livability Agenda to preserve “green space” through grants, bonds, and tax incentives.</i></li> <li>• <i>Eliminate state and federal policies that encourage sprawl.</i></li> <li>• <i>NASDA policy 7.3 addresses farmland protection and easements.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Foreign and Domestic Animal Health Issues</i></b></p> <p><i>Marketing &amp; International Trade Committee</i></p> <p><i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><b><i>Issues:</i></b></p>		<p>Emergence of diseases such as rabies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of Disease Control Programs (1.2)</li> <li>• Adequate Funding to Complete Programs (1.2)</li> </ul> <p><b>1.2 FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES</b></p> <p>The completion of several disease control programs of significance to the economic viability of livestock production agriculture in the United States is nearing. Bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, swine brucellosis and pseudorabies are examples of diseases that will likely be eradicated from domestic livestock by the year 2000. Funding cuts and other resource constraints threaten the ability of USDA, specifically the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to complete these important programs.</p>

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<p><i>Completion of Disease Control Programs</i> <i>Funding Cuts in Key Programs</i></p>			
<p><b><i>Animal Damage Control</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></b></p> <p><i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><b><i>Issues:</i></b></p> <p><i>Reduce Threat to Public Health and Safety</i> <i>Rabies and other Animal Diseases.</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate funding of Wildlife Services</li> <li>• Complete Eradication Programs</li> <li>• Rabies Eradication Program</li> </ul> <p><b>1.4 ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL</b></p> <p>Managing wildlife is important to reduce damage to agriculture and natural resources, to minimize potential threats to public health and safety, and to protect other species. Strategies are implemented that are environmentally, socially and biologically sound. NASDA supports the efforts of the USDA to manage wildlife and to protect American agriculture and other aspects of human life. The emergence and demonstrated spread of rabies in the United States has overwhelmed state rabies control and prevention programs. NASDA supports the appropriation of federal funds to support rabies control and vaccination programs.</p>
<p><b><i>Animal Welfare</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></b></p> <p><i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><b><i>Issues:</i></b></p> <p><i>Distinction Between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare</i></p>	<p>Poor and inhumane management of animals is not profitable. High quality of feed and environment yields superior product.</p>	<p>Public criticism of livestock production practices; confinement, feed, and medication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinction between animal rights and animal welfare. (1.6)</li> </ul> <p><b>1.6 Animal Welfare</b></p> <p>Farming is a business and farm animals are not pets. Because the margin between costs of production and marketing products is so small, today's producers recognize that poor or inhumane management is never profitable. Our nation's farmers and ranchers must use the highest quality, most nutritious feeds, provide safe, clean stress free environments coupled with a love for their animals to obtain even small margins of profit. However, there is a clear distinction between animal welfare and animal rights:</p>

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<p><i>Domestic Plant Pest and Disease Issues</i></p> <p><i>Committee(s) Assigned:</i></p> <p><i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><i>Issues:</i></p> <p><i>Plant Quarantine &amp; Inspection</i> <i>Consolidated Plant Pest Act</i></p>			<p>Plant Quarantine and Inspection Guidelines (2.2) Consolidated Plant Pest Act (2.2) Taxonomic Expertise Resource List (2.2)</p> <p><b>2.2 DOMESTIC PLANT PEST AND DISEASE ISSUES</b></p> <p>The agriculture industry is faced with wide-ranging plant pests and diseases that threaten to damage crops and cause farmers to suffer severe economic losses. NASDA recognizes the importance of controlling these devastating pests and diseases and believes that the federal government should be provided the adequate funding to carry out existing programs and to perform research to find ways to control and eradicate these pests and diseases.</p> <p><i>Plant Quarantine and Inspection Guidelines</i> — States should evaluate their current pest prevention programs for conformity with the National Plant Board guidelines and consider modifying their programs in order to achieve uniformity with those guidelines.</p> <p><i>Consolidated Plant Pest Act</i> — NASDA supports the efforts of the federal government to improve the efficiency for dealing with plant pests and diseases and to consolidate the functions and responsibilities of the various agencies. We encourage the federal government to complete its work and submit it to Congress for approval. We believe effective coordination and consolidation should include provisions that delegate uniform emergency action authority to the Secretary of Agriculture and that provides for the detection, control, eradication, suppression, prevention, or retardation of the spread of plant pests necessary for the protection of agriculture, the environment, and the economy of the United States.</p> <p><i>Taxonomic Expertise Resource List</i> —</p> <p>NASDA believes that the National Plant Board should work with USDA-APHIS-PPQ, USDA-ARS and other appropriate groups to address this issue. USDA-APHIS-PPQ should coordinate this effort. NASDA also believes it would be beneficial for a catalog of existing taxonomic expertise</p>

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			<p>in the United States to be developed and recognizes that the catalog will need regular updating and suggests APHIS maintain the catalog.</p>
<p><i>Noxious Weeds</i></p> <p><b>Committee(s) Assigned:</b> <i>Animal &amp; Plant Industries Committee</i></p> <p><b>Issue:</b> <i>Noxious Weed Act</i></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment of Noxious Weed Act (2.8)</li> </ul> <p><b>2.8 Noxious Weeds</b></p> <p>The Federal Noxious Weed Act (FNWA) (P.L. 93-629), as currently enacted, creates serious problems for the development of sound regulatory and enforcement programs both at the federal and state levels. It should be amended to consider the value of both the agricultural industry and our natural ecosystems.</p>