

POLICY AMENDMENT FORM

Amendment to: **Plant Health Protection and Disease Control**
(Policy Title)

Section Number /Title to Be Amended: **2.2 Domestic Plant Issues**

Subject of Amendment: **Support of USDA in Legal Challenges to Joint Federal/State Eradication Programs**

Submitted By: **Charles Bronson** **Florida**

Amendment Text:

Current Text -

The agricultural industry is faced with a wide range of plant pests and diseases that threaten to damage crops and cause farmers to suffer severe economic losses. Programs have been established at the federal and state level to combat plant health concerns. NASDA recognizes the importance of controlling devastating pests and diseases and believes that the federal government should provide adequate funding to carry out existing programs and to perform research on ways to control and eradicate serious pests and diseases. Cooperative agreements with states and growers should be encouraged as a way of developing appropriate management strategies. Criteria under consideration by USDA to calculate state and federal participation in cooperative funding for pest and disease eradication and control must be flexible and take into consideration that each problem is unique and may not readily fit a formal criterion. To control and eradicate pests and diseases, early response is critical.

Text to be added:

Many times, the strategies and procedures to carry out these cooperative programs are based on research that has been conducted by federal scientists. Unless an Extraordinary Emergency is declared for a plant pest or disease, state authorities are often used in eradication programs since they are usually broader in scope than those of the federal government. In these situations, it is imperative that states have a commitment from the federal government that they will make their scientific personnel available in the event of a legal challenge to the program.