

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

# NASDA



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.



January 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the honor of serving as NASDA President for 2006-2007. I very much enjoyed getting to know you all better at the regional meetings around the country and it was a pleasure to host you for the annual meeting last September in Seattle. While the year flew by, the memories of the experience will linger for a lifetime.

While questions remain about the timing of the completion of the Farm Bill, I am gratified by how the legislation is shaping up. Clearly, NASDA's call for a Farm Bill that serves the needs of all our producers across the country has been heard. Yes, each of our states has a unique agriculture economy. But from our work this past year, we know that when we speak with one voice for the farmers and ranchers of our country, NASDA can exert strong influence on the legislative process. Thank you for all your work, in front of the cameras and behind the scenes, to make our effort on the Farm Bill so effective.

I am also pleased about our other efforts to support the continued profitability of farming and ranching in America. The need for continued consumer confidence in our Nation's food products cannot be overstated. Urban and suburban families continue to want to learn more about where their food comes from and to support local growers. And I believe we are doing a better job of drawing the connection between a vibrant rural economy and comprehensive immigration reform.

Our NASDA staff continues to prove their worth day in and day out. Rick and the whole team proved invaluable during complex policy debates and provided expert administrative support. Their can-do spirit was refreshing.

Again, it has been a privilege to serve this past year as president of NASDA. I look forward to supporting Roger Johnson as he continues our work to advance the cause of agriculture all across the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valoria H. Loveland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Valoria" and "Loveland" being the most prominent parts.

Valoria Loveland  
Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Past-President, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture



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## POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### NASDA advances 2007 farm bill recommendations

NASDA focused a majority of its legislative efforts this year to champion NASDA's 2007 Farm Bill recommendations. In March 2007, NASDA President Roger Johnson (ND) led a delegation of state agriculture commissioners, secretaries and directors to meet with House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders, congressional members and staff, agricultural organizations, and senior USDA officials. The NASDA delegation included: California Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura; New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Miley Gonzalez; Delaware Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse; New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Charles Kuperus; and Pennsylvania Deputy Agriculture Secretary Cheryl Cook. The delegation highlighted recommendations including the specialty crops block grant program, economic safety net programs, nutrition programs, bioenergy initiatives, and conservation.

In April 2007, NASDA submitted written testimony for two House and Senate Agriculture Committee hearings on the 2007 farm bill, livestock market competition issues, and interstate meat sales. NASDA also submitted written testimony for a House Small Business Committee hearing on the farm bill in June 2007 which focused on market competition, small business and the need to allow interstate meat sales.

### Natural resources & pesticide management issues

NASDA testified at a Senate Environmental & Public Works Committee hearing in September 2007 which reviewed Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The hearing focused on regulation of manure, livestock and poultry operations under the Superfund hazardous waste law. Utah Agriculture Commissioner Leonard Blackham, who chairs NASDA's Natural Resources & Pesticide Management Committee, testified on behalf of NASDA. NASDA and other farm groups are supporting legislation that would exempt CAFOs and agricultural operations from Superfund regulation.

NASDA is working with an agricultural coalition to address several environmental issues affecting agriculture. NASDA and the coalition are advocating legislation in the House and Senate to clarify that Clean Water Act (CWA) permits are not needed for certain pesticide applications. NASDA continues activities to support Endangered Species Act (ESA) reform legislation. NASDA coordinates and works closely with our affiliate organization, the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), on these important issues.

NASDA nominated candidates to serve on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory Committee. The committee will provide advice to the EPA Administrator on environmental issues that affect agriculture.

### Homeland security

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson, Vermont Agriculture Secretary Roger Allbee, and South Dakota Agriculture Secretary Bill Even represent NASDA on the Administration's Government Coordinating Council for the Food and 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. NASDA members have provided input and comments on numerous policies and documents which might affect state agriculture departments.

NASDA testified at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing in July 2007 on post-harvest safety and protection of the food and agriculture system. NASDA made several recommendations to strengthen food defense capabilities, including resource and funding needs, food defense training, and improved communications. Dr. Lee Myers, State Veterinarian and Assistant Commissioner of the Georgia Agriculture Department, testified on behalf of NASDA.

### Interstate meat sales

NASDA continues to lead efforts to advance interstate meat sales legislation in Congress and heads a coalition of more than 80 agricultural groups on these activities. Bipartisan legislation was introduced this year in both the House (H.R. 1760, H.R. 2315, and H.R. 2876) and the Senate (S. 1149 and S. 1150). The House and Senate 2007 farm bills also included provisions to allow interstate meat sales. NASDA President Roger Johnson was one of the leaders in negotiations with consumer, labor, farm groups and congressional lawmakers. In October 2007, a legislative compromise was reached that would create a new program to allow interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and poultry. The agreement is expected to be approved in the final 2007 farm bill.

## Animal & plant health

NASDA and the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established an Assessment Working Group to steer the activities under a Collaborative Assessment Project. The critical need for excellent communications and collaborations during emergency responses prompted NASDA and APHIS to establish this project to focus on institutionalizing those things that work well and improving those processes that may need further attention. All programmatic levels of state agencies and APHIS were surveyed regarding communications tools, methods and protocols. Recommendations are to be made to NASDA's Animal & Plant Industries Committee and to the APHIS Leadership Team for consideration. Many of the states now view their normal daily jobs to be that of emergency response.

NASDA nominated candidates to serve on the USDA's Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases, USDA's Secretary's Advisory Committee on 21st Century Agriculture and the Board of the Reagan-Udall Foundation (FDA).

**Animal Health** – States continued to cooperate with APHIS regarding avian influenza. The fear of a pandemic as a result of the spread of the disease from birds to humans in the Orient, Africa and Europe still keeps avian and human health concerns on the front burner. The need for a systematic national animal identification system continues to preoccupy the states. Several issues still complicate implementation; e.g., a desire for confidentiality of some of the data, what entity will run the system, who will have access to information and under what conditions, who pays for the tags and collection of data and whether the program should be mandatory or voluntary.

**Plant Health** – States efforts to eradicate pests that have arrived in this country as a result of global trade were hampered by a lack of timely and systematic funding for emerging and exotic pests. Several existing programs; e.g., Citrus Canker, Sudden Oak Death and Soybean Rust, Potato Cyst & Golden Nematodes, Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorn Beetle, continue as important programs in effected and potentially effected states. These programs are joined by new pest problems; e.g., Citrus Greening and Light Brown Apple Moth.

## Permanent disaster assistance program

NASDA urged Congress to support the Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program provided in the Senate version of the 2007 farm bill. Disaster assistance should always be an option in the face of national crisis, but it must be provided in an ongoing, consistent, and predictable manner to be fully effective. The proposed disaster assistance program is designed on guiding principles supported by NASDA including the following important features:

- Does not undermine the crop insurance program. Rather, the program provides an incentive for producers to buy higher levels of crop insurance coverage.
- Assistance is provided on a "whole-farm" revenue basis; targeting assistance for genuine losses when truly needed.
- Focuses on "shallow losses" not covered by crop insurance programs.
- Includes assistance for livestock and uninsurable specialty crops.
- Is predictable for producers.

## 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. 340, H.R. 371, the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2007) 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. In May 2007, NASDA President Loveland wrote to each U.S. Senator about the need for AgJOBS. The letter cited specific examples of labor shortages in Washington State and efforts to recruit 1700 workers for the apple industry but only receiving 40 applicants after intensive publicity and orientation efforts.

# COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

NASDA periodically enters into cooperative agreements with various state or federal agencies to promote uniformity and efficiency in the administration of programs important to agriculture. These cooperative agreements are administered in close coordination with federal or state agency staff.

## **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 4,000 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. 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.

## **Food & agriculture homeland security cooperative agreement**

NASDA signed a cooperative agreement in September 2004 with USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop best practices and guidelines to address emergency incidents involving the Nation's food supply. A number of tasks were performed over the period of 2004 and 2005, including surveying states on emergency response systems, analyzing food and agriculture related emergency response data and plans, and evaluating a model template in three states. In February 2006, NASDA and the project partners released a food emergency response "template" for states to use as a planning tool. In 2007, NASDA prepared food defense education and training materials to further assist states in developing food emergency response plans.

## **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 entering its 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 and health providers. The depth and range of the 2007 grant activities are testimony to another successful year of collaboration among the NASDARF, EPA/OPP, State Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, USDA, and many other organizations to achieve measurable worker safety program results. Current and future NASDA Foundation grant activities have been shaped by the 2000-2003 National Assessment of the Worker Safety Program, stakeholder program feedback, the ongoing program assessment under this cooperative agreement, and EPA/OPP goals and priorities. Both EPA/OPP and the NASDARF are grateful such a grant is available to support the national pesticide worker safety program.

## AQIS quality assurance programs

Through the Agricultural Quality Inspection Service (AQIS), a non-profit 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 improve compliance and institute best environmental practices.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### NASDA / COSDA / APHIS emergency communications plan

NASDA, COSDA and APHIS entered into an emergency communications plan in 2003. Experience during several subsequent crises has led to the revamping of the program. The three entities have been focused on developing consistent messages between them, so—on priority issues—the states and federal agencies will have knowledge of each other's communications intentions. A desire to establish a single electronic location to house these messages continues as a priority. NASDA and COSDA have also had discussions with other federal agencies regarding expanding our mutual interests through similar undertakings.

### Tri-national agricultural accord

NASDA members continue to build relationships with Mexico's state secretaries of agriculture and rural development and Canada's provincial ministers of agriculture to identify opportunities to resolve trade-related issues in the NAFTA countries. In April 2007, the State of Nuevo Leon hosted the 17th Annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord Meeting in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Secretaries, Commissioners, Directors, Ministers and senior government officials from 6 Canadian provinces, 16 U.S. states and 20 Mexican states worked together to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among the agricultural sectors of the three NAFTA countries. In October 2007 the tri-lateral working group on rural development held a meeting in Edmonton, Alberta. Strategic directions for this group in 2008 include workforce issues, bioenergy and nutritional programs. This working group will continue their efforts in anticipation of its next meeting in the Mexico State of Aguascalientes, May 11-14, 2008. Before that the tri-lateral working group on harmonization will meet in Sacramento, California, April 16-18, 2008. In addition, the bi-lateral accord working groups are taking steps to carry out the work plans for the year. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will host the 18th Tri-National Agricultural Accord Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, August 13-15, 2008.



# TRADE SHOWS

## Overview

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) posts worldwide assist NASDA and its trade show partners by publicizing the events, by organizing and leading delegations, and by providing promotional and operational funding through Market Access Program (MAP) and Emerging Markets Program (EMP).

## U.S. Food Export Showcase @ the Global Food & Style Exposition

**April 27-29, 2008 – McCormick Place – Chicago, Illinois**

NASDA's sixteenth U.S. Food Export Showcase (USFES) will be held with a new twist in 2008. NASDA's fifteen year partnership with the Food Marketing Institute's (FMI) Supermarket Convention and Trade Show concluded at the close of last year's event, May 5-7, 2007. NASDA is joining a new partnership with the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade's (NASFT) Fancy Food Show and the Organic Trade Association's (OTA) All Things Organic event to form the Global Food & Style Exposition.

There were several reasons for the change in partnership. After FMI decided to relocate its event and change from an annual to a biennial format, NASDA's Board of Directors decided that maintaining an annual format and a Chicago location was preferable. The new Global Food & Style Expo, with NASFT and OTA in Chicago, offers an outstanding ground floor opportunity to create a major, domestic, non-sector specific, international food trade show in the U.S.

The first USFES at the Global Food & Style Exposition will feature major pavilions sponsored by the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), Food Export Northeast, and Food Export Midwest. NASDA has also retained some of the food industries most knowledgeable consulting talent to help create an enhanced education program to help attract high-value importers and internationally based retail buyers.

## The American Food Fair

**19-22 May 2007 – McCormick Place – Chicago, Illinois**

**20-23 May 2008 – McCormick Place – Chicago, Illinois**

The eighth NASDA sponsored American Food Fair pavilion at the National Restaurant Association (NRA) Show in Chicago continue a 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. 4,747 international visitors, 9.1 percent of the 52,343 attendance (not including exhibit personnel), came from 116 countries.

For the eighth consecutive year, NASDA collaborated closely with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) posts around the world to promote the event. For the sixth consecutive year, NASDA's representative in China, Lee's Market Makers, meshed closely with FAS efforts to organize a Chinese group of 188 visitors. NASDA's President Roger Johnson (ND) and Trade Shows Director DeWitt Ashby traveled to China in November 2007 to promote the 2008 NRA Show.

## The U.S. Pavilion at the IFE Americas Show

**29-31 October 2007 – Miami Beach Convention Center – Florida**

**24-26 September 2008 – Miami Beach Convention Center – Florida**

Since 1998 the World Trade Center Miami (WTCM) has organized the Americas Food and Beverage Show—now IFE Americas—for the purpose of fostering two-way trade within the Western hemisphere. The recently concluded 2007 IFE Americas continued to demonstrate solid progress, benefitting from the expertise of Montgomery International, the WTCM's show partner. Meanwhile, NASDA and FAS continued to sponsor the U.S. pavilion and provide special matching services through ECRM (Efficient Collaborative Retail Marketing) for the benefit of U.S. exhibitors.

## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

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)  
Association 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 Association 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)  
Weights and Measures Division of NASDA

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