



**The National  
Association of State  
Departments of  
Agriculture**

**2009  
Annual Report**

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# From the Executive Director



Dear NASDA Members,

Change. That's certainly something that is happening at NASDA. As we look to the future we see more on the horizon. This fall 38 states have elections; 19 states have open seats. In addition to changes at the state level, NASDA will also see a significant change over in its membership. Twenty-two percent of the NASDA membership has less tenure than I do.

In addition, we have seen several staff changes within NASDA. We are a smaller staff with a clearer focus. We have more emphasis on the special projects that we've had in the past; we have program directors overseeing our major issue areas. We have reorganized and added staff to the Policy Unit, all while staying within budget. We are a different organization than we were 18 months ago. I think it is better and can be better in the future as well.

Challenges. These too have been front and center within NASDA. The budget is tight. Some of our efforts have been like a farmer having to have a second job. We have sorted through the past to recognize the things we can do better and have focused on them. Our financial records are in the best shape these have been in for years. We need to start to build our reserves at the same time that everyone continues to experience financial woes.

When I began my job with NASDA, I was presented with two clear goals. I agree they are our priorities. We need to continue to improve our financial status; we need to become a force to be reckoned with on the Hill and within the regulatory agencies. We have made great strides on both issues. We are financially stable, still needing growth. We are expanding our presence in Washington, DC, still seeking greater standing. Some have called NASDA a sleeping giant; I truly believe that we have recently awakened. I look forward to great things and more stability in the next year, even as we continue to change and face daunting challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Haterius".

Stephen Haterius  
Executive Director

# NASDA & Its Members

## NASDA'S MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## NASDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

PRESIDENT	Ed Kee, <i>Delaware</i>
VICE PRESIDENT	Leonard Blackham, <i>Utah</i>
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Bill Northey, <i>Iowa</i>
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Terry Peach, <i>Oklahoma</i>
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AT-LARGE	Gene Hugoson, <i>Minnesota</i>
NORTHEASTERN REGION	Seth Bradstreet, <i>Maine</i>
SOUTHERN REGION	Louis Petersen, <i>U.S. Virgin Islands</i>
MIDWESTERN REGION	Robert Boggs, <i>Ohio</i>
WESTERN REGION	Ron de Yong, <i>Montana</i>

## NASDA MEMBERS

Ron Sparks, *Alabama*  
Franci Havemeister, *Alaska*  
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*Puerto Rico*  
Kenneth Ayars, *Rhode Island*  
Hugh Weathers, *South Carolina*  
William Even, *South Dakota*  
Ken Givens, *Tennessee*  
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Leonard Blackham, *Utah*  
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Louis Petersen, *Virgin Islands*  
Sandy Adams (Acting), *Virginia*  
Dan Newhouse, *Washington*  
Gus Douglass, *West Virginia*  
Rod Nilsestuen, *Wisconsin*  
Jason Fearnelyhough, *Wyoming*

# Policy Accomplishments

## MEAT THE NEED & SNAP-PLUS

While nearly every sector of the economy faced significant difficulty in 2009, American dairy, pork, and poultry producers were particularly hard-hit—with many suffering losses that may never be recovered. During the Annual Meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, NASDA members developed “*Meat the Need*,” a bold proposal to address the situation by establishing a tiered-purchase program for the struggling sectors. In turn, the purchased products would be distributed expeditiously into food assistance programs. Meanwhile, under the SNAP-Plus program, an additional allotment would be allocated to beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase meat and dairy products at private grocers.

*“I am pleased we came together as a national organization to offer a solution to assist our producers. At the same time, our plan will provide vital aid to those Americans also greatly affected by the economic downturn.”*

*~NASDA President Ed Kee*

Following the release of *Meat the Need*, NASDA reached out to Congressional leaders and Administration officials. Soon after, Congress and the Administration followed through with key initiatives from the *Meat the Need* proposal. Congress established the Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Program (DELAP), which provided \$350 million in cheese purchases and direct payments for producers. USDA followed with a \$50 million purchase of pork products utilizing Section 32 funds. Even though this assistance has helped, there is still much to be done. As discussions for the next farm bill begin, NASDA will work to make certain these issues are addressed accordingly.

## INTERSTATE MEAT SALES

NASDA and its affiliate organization, the National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors (NASMFID), filed detailed comments to USDA regarding the implementing rule for the new Title V program that will allow state-inspected meat and poultry products to be sold across state borders that was established in the 2008 Farm Bill.

## ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH

Emergency response concerns regarding animal and plant health issues are of great concern for NASDA and its members. Keeping foreign pests and diseases from getting introduced and assessing the potential economic and environmental impacts from established non-native pests and diseases remain high priorities for state departments of agriculture. The 2008 Farm Bill pest and disease management and disaster prevention program (Section 10201) allows states to increase efforts to detect pests and diseases that make it through the defenses at the borders at higher risk locations. This is a valuable adjunct to the Department of Homeland Security’s Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Program, which is aimed at excluding pests and diseases, the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program, and the CCC funding for emergency foreign pest and disease eradication.

## NATURAL RESOURCES, PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT & THE ENVIRONMENT

NASDA took an active role in a series of pesticide and chemical-related regulatory issues during 2009. NASDA provided comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding a newly convened



# Policy Accomplishments

Science Advisory Panel on atrazine, perchlorate in drinking water, and Reregistration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) for soil fumigants. Following the 2009 Annual Meeting in Alabama, NASDA also joined with the National Association of State Foresters in expressing concerns with EPA's RED for methyl bromide. In addition, NASDA joined with a broad coalition of agriculture organizations in support of USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy.

NASDA worked aggressively throughout 2009 in support of NASDA policy which opposes expanding jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. NASDA also actively engaged Congress and the Administration on matters related to the management of wild horses on public lands, endangered species issues, farm bill conservation program implementation, and concentrated animal feeding operations.

## CLEAN WATER PERMITS FOR AQUATIC PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

NASDA has actively engaged with the Administration, Congress, and the Courts this year following a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in *National Cotton Council vs.*

*Environmental Protection Agency*. The court held that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits under the Clean Water Act are required for pesticide applications "in, over, or near" waters of the U.S.

*“Environmental safety is a prime requisite in the pesticide programs implemented by each [state agriculture] department. The Sixth Circuit’s decision is likely to disrupt longstanding state regulatory programs and relationships, as well as negatively impact the significant economic contributions from agricultural production in these states.”*

*~AMCA-NASDA to U.S. Supreme Court*

NASDA filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief with the Sixth Circuit in May asking for a rehearing in the case. NASDA's efforts culminated in a joint brief with the American Mosquito Control Association that was filed with the U.S. Supreme Court asking the Court to hear the case.

In addition, NASDA frequently engaged the administration on both the regulatory response to the

Sixth Circuit's decision, as well as the legal aspects of the case. NASDA staff met throughout the year with a number of key Congressional offices about the case and also worked with other agriculture organizations to help facilitate the filing of an amicus brief by a bipartisan group of 40 Senators and Representatives.

## ENERGY TASK FORCE

To address a multitude of energy and environmental issues facing U.S. agriculture, NASDA established an Energy Task Force in 2009. The task force, which reports to the Rural Development and Financial Security Committee and the Natural Resources, Pesticide Management and Environment Committee, will focus on policy issues related to climate change, biofuels, and energy costs. America's farmers and ranchers will continue to play a pivotal role in our energy future.

This critical role will undoubtedly provide ample economic development opportunities for rural America; however, there will be occasions where NASDA Members will find themselves caught between regional and commodity-related issues. NASDA's new Energy Task Force was developed in order to address these potentially controversial energy issues.

# Policy Accomplishments

## CLIMATE CHANGE & RENEWABLE ENERGY

The House of Representatives has already passed a landmark cap-and-trade bill, with the Senate working on major legislation of its own. Meanwhile, the EPA has been given authority to regulate greenhouse gasses without any action needed by Congress. Regardless of which entity ultimately addresses the issue, agriculture must be included in the conversation. On multiple occasions in 2009, NASDA worked with Congressional leadership and the Administration to ensure agriculture has a seat at the table in any and all climate discussions.

Billions of dollars are being invested into the development of new, clean sources of energy - signifying Washington's commitment to an industry with vast opportunities for growth. With many controversial decisions on biofuels and biomass near future, it is critical for the leaders of American agriculture to work together to find common goals and solutions. During 2009, NASDA worked specifically on issues dealing with renewable biomass, the biodiesel tax credit, and to halt the use of indirect land use change considerations for biofuels, amongst a host of other energy-related concerns.

## SPECIALTY CROPS

NASDA continues to work with the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA to ensure full implementation of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. AMS prepared a new rule governing the program and provided the states with comprehensive guidelines intended to make the program more competitive. Delayed publication of the Notice of Funding Availability is an issue for the States and NASDA has been working with USDA to ensure a timelier announcement.

## FARM LABOR

NASDA continues to support legislation to address the labor needs of American Agriculture. AgJOBS (S.1038 and H.R.2414), introduced in the 111th Congress by Diane Feinstein (D-CA) in the Senate and Howard L. Berman (D-CA) in the House, continues to enjoy the broad support of agricultural, labor, immigrant rights, religious, community, and general business groups, and has equally broad political support.

Key Congressional and administration sources have signaled a strong desire to craft and move an immigration bill, starting in the Senate, early in 2010. If consensus can be developed rapidly on a comprehensive bill, Congress could act by spring. If not, AgJOBS and perhaps a few other popular and urgent measures could be considered as part of a smaller "first installment" package.

## COMMUNICATIONS

NASDA introduced a number of changes to its weekly newsletter, NASDA News, over the course of the year to help make the publication easier to read and more timely, as well as a sharper focus on Congress, the Administration, and the political dynamics that impact public policy. Each week's NASDA News is delivered electronically to an audience of over 4,000 subscribers, is posted on [www.nasda.org](http://www.nasda.org), and is "Tweeted" on NASDA's Twitter feed.

# Policy Accomplishments

NASDA developed a Social Media Strategy which includes the use of Twitter, Facebook, and other social media tools to communicate with members, staff, and stakeholders, all while increasing the profile and visibility of the organization.

NASDA has also expanded the use of conference calls to facilitate communication among NASDA members and with administration officials.

## TRI-NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ACCORD

NASDA members, along with the state secretaries of agriculture and rural development in Mexico and the provincial ministers of agriculture in Canada, continue to work to identify opportunities to resolve trade-related issues in the NAFTA countries. The Province of Manitoba hosted the 19th annual meeting of the Tri-National Agricultural Accord Gimli, Manitoba during August. The Secretaries, Commissioners, Directors, Ministers, and other senior government officials from six Canadian provinces, five Mexican states, and seven U.S. states worked together to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among the agricultural sectors of the three NAFTA countries.

### COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

ANIMAL & PLANT INDUSTRIES: Lester Spell, *Louisiana*

MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL TRADE: Charles Bronson, *Florida*

FOOD REGULATION & NUTRITION: Steve Troxler, *North Carolina*

NATURAL RESOURCES, PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENT: Leonard Blackham, *Utah*

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL SECURITY: Ron de Yong, *Montana*

BIOTECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE: Doug Goehring, *North Dakota*

ENERGY TASK FORCE: Gene Hugoson, *Minnesota*

FOOD & AGRICULTURE SECURITY: Bill Even, *Iowa*

SPECIALTY CROPS TASK FORCE: A.G. Kawamura, *California*

TOBACCO TASK FORCE: Steve Troxler, *North Carolina*

U.S./CANADA WORKING GROUP: Gene Hugoson, *Minnesota*

U.S./MEXICO WORKING GROUP: A.G. Kawamura, *California*



## NASDA-NASS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Since 1978, NASDA and USDA's 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 3,700 part-time statistical enumerators who collect and supply to NASS statistical data from both on-farm and telephone surveys with farm and ranch operators.

Agricultural statistical data is essential to farmers, ranchers, and others in agriculture who require reliable information on production, supplies, marketing, prices, weather, and a vast array of other inputs. This data is also vital to monitoring the ever-changing agricultural sector and carrying out farm policy programs at both the state and federal level.

*“NASDA's enumerators play a vital role in collecting the best, most accurate information possible and working with NASS to obtain survey responses in a timely & organized manner.”*

NASS conducts hundreds of surveys each year on issues including agricultural production, economics, demographics and the environment. Every five years NASS also conducts the Census of Agriculture, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASDA's enumerators play a vital role in collecting

the best, most accurate information possible and working with NASS to obtain survey responses in a timely and organized manner.

NASDA is continuing its efforts to strengthen and enhance the NASS-NASDA partnership, and the commissioners, secretaries and directors of agriculture in every state play a vital role in these activities. Charlie Ingram assumed the position of NASDA's new NASS Program Director in March 2009, and oversees all administrative, personnel and enumerator field activities. The NASDA-NASS webpage at [www.nasda.org](http://www.nasda.org) highlights current projects and a new enumerator newsletter, NASDA Voice, is published quarterly.

The NASDA-NASS cooperative program serves the basic agricultural and rural data needs of the country, and ensures that farmers and ranchers have a voice in the future of rural communities and all of agriculture.

## NASDA'S FAS RELATED PROJECTS

In 2009 NASDA, working closely with FAS (USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service) and FAS offices around the world, produced the American Food Fair export pavilion at the National Restaurant Association's annual show in Chicago. While economic realities caused a decline in overall exhibit space, the AFF maintained a steady presence. And, despite the psychological impact of the H1N1 virus, international attendance remained strong including more than 3,000 visitors from over 100 countries. NASDA's continued focus on China was rewarded with 104 visitors. In 2010 (22-25 May, McCormick Place, Chicago), as a result of a second consecutive year of intensified promotions, we anticipate that international attendance will exceed 4,000.

# Special Projects

The 2009 U.S. pavilion produced by NASDA and FAS in partnership with the World Trade Center Miami's annual Americas Food & Beverage Show was similarly successful. NASDA provided several special features for U.S. exhibitors including a custom report ranking Latin American markets for U.S. food products, pre-arranged meetings with highly qualified buyers, and pre-show exhibit and export coaching. Exhibit sales for the 2010 (26-27 October, Miami Beach Convention Center) event are running significantly ahead of last year's totals at this time.

In spring of 2010, NASDA and FAS will resume their trade show partnership with the Food Marketing Institute at the FMI Show in Las Vegas (10-13 May at Mandalay Bay). Prior to 2008 NASDA had worked with FMI on 15 consecutive annual events, producing the U.S. Food Showcase.

NASDA continues to work with FAS to provide international market information (available to NASDA members) contracted through Euromonitor International and to enhance the appearance and presence of U.S. pavilions at a wide variety of international trade shows outside the U.S. NASDA is also working with FAS and NASDA member marketing staffs to further develop and improve international buyer and U.S. exporter data. Part of this initiative, the "new" Trade Lead system launched in July, is providing real time, specific opportunities for American food and beverage exporters.

## **NASDA/EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

The NASDA Research Foundation (NASDA-RF) has entered into another five-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs (EPA/OPP), a testimony to the successful collaboration among NASDA-RF, EPA/OPP, State Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service of the USDA and a wide range of agricultural stakeholder interests. The Agreement continues the work started in the initial agreement to develop and improve pesticide safety programs for agricultural workers, pesticide handlers, applicators and health providers.

## **NASDA/COSDA/APHIS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

In 2008, NASDA, COSDA and APHIS updated their emergency communications plan. The plan spells out how the states and APHIS will share information during emergencies. This is a part of an overall plan to increase the collaboration between state and federal partners.

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.

# Affiliates & NASDA Staff

## AFFILIATES

All told, NASDA has 23 affiliate organizations. These affiliates are any organization made up of state or territorial officials involved in the regulation, promotion or development of agriculture and agricultural products. These groups provide a wealth of technical expertise on issues for NASDA.

- 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 (AFDO)
- Association of Fruit and Vegetable Inspection and Standardization Agencies (AFVISA)
- Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA)
- Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO)
- Communications Officers of the State Departments of Agriculture (COSDA)
- International Association of Milk Control Agencies (IAMCA)
- National Association of Agricultural Fair Agencies (NAAFA)
- North American Agricultural Marketing Officials (NAAMO)
- National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials (NADRO)
- National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC)
- National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO)
- National Association of State Agriculture Technology Officials (NASATO)
- 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)
- National Conference on Weights & Measures (NCWM)

## NASDA STAFF

- Stephen Haterius, *Executive Director*
- DeWitt Ashby, *Director, Trade Shows*
- Nathan Bowen, *Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs*
- Bob Ehart, *Public Policy Director*
- Richard Herrett, *Project Manager, Pesticide Worker Training*
- David Hickey, *Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs*
- Charlie Ingram, *NASS Program Director*
- Amy Mann, *Director, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs*
- Megan McDonald, *Assistant Director, Trade Shows*
- Debra Talbott, *Controller*

