

SUPPLY CHAIN

FOOD AND PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAIN

NASDA is committed to ensuring long-term stability and resilience in our nation's food supply chain.

BACKGROUND

The impacts of COVID-19 have placed unprecedented strains on our food supply system. A precipitous drop in food service demand, the resulting surge in grocery sales and soaring food assistance needs have created challenges for producers and consumers alike. Resources and smart policies are needed to guard against an uneven COVID-19 recovery that harms our food system and rural communities. State departments of agriculture have proven their ability to effectively respond to the unique needs of food and agriculture producers in their communities.



MEAT PROCESSING

Supply chain interruptions have exacerbated the need for adjustments in existing meat processing capacity, and perhaps too, the creation of additional meat processing capacities across the nation. Increasing access to both domestic and international markets is necessary to bolster U.S. meat processing capacity and decrease the number of backlogged livestock.

State departments of agriculture play a central role in identifying and coordinating food supply chain and meat production relationships, as well as leading outreach and regulatory authority to state inspected meat processing facilities. Twenty-seven state departments of agriculture operate state meat and poultry inspection programs, from which nine states participate in Cooperative Interstate Shipment Programs.




Expanding the ability of meat processors across the country to effectively fulfill consumer demand without compromising food safety or worker health is a priority for NASDA. An enhanced meat processing system will give producers and consumers much-needed options.

FOOD/NUTRITION SECURITY

NASDA supports addressing hunger and food insecurity solutions with the goal of ending hunger in our nation. State departments of agriculture are uniquely positioned, formally and informally, to connect farmers and ranchers with entities (public and private) providing support to food insecure communities. Further, if provided adequate resources state departments of agriculture can leverage and/or implement federal programs at the state level, that can best meet local objectives and strategies focusing on food insecurity.

NASDA published a Food Security Toolkit in 2021 to increase awareness and improve coordination around hunger solutions. NASDA surveyed state departments of agriculture and found that successful state food security programs involve partnerships between the public and private sector using federal grants and aligned with organizations focusing on food policy. The Food Security Toolkit has shown that when state departments of agriculture partner with other entities including federal partners, state residents become more food-secure and farmers, ranchers and



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SUPPLY CHAIN

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food producers within the state benefit from wider market-access.

FOOD WASTE

There are many highly successful food waste reduction programs across our country, many of them founded and funded locally. The further reduction of food waste must play a role in USDA's strategy around food and nutrition security and involve all appropriate organizations, not the least being federal, state and local governments. NASDA supports extending the inter-agency agreement between the USDA, EPA and FDA regarding food waste through 2030 consistent with the national goal of reducing food loss and waste in the U.S. by 50 percent by 2030. Further, NASDA supports additional efforts to improve coordination and communication amongst federal, state and municipal stakeholders to use resources more efficiently and effectively to address food waste.



REGULATORY ACTION

\$1 Billion for Expanding Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity

NASDA appreciates USDA meeting NASDA's recommendations to invest in large infrastructure cost, technical assistance for grant applicants and business development, and providing support for workforce training.

NASDA encourages USDA to provide funding to all processors, regardless of whether they are federally inspected, state inspected, or are a custom exempt processing facility. Regardless of the destination of the meat and poultry products prepared by an establishment, (i.e., intra- or interstate), further modernizing establishments will add resiliency to the food supply chain, thereby protecting consumers from price shocks and increasing local economic activity.

Healthy Food for Food Insecure Americans and Build Food Bank Capacity

NASDA recommends USDA provide dedicated funding to state departments of agriculture (or other designated state agencies) to support both the purchase of local food for food banks and all necessary administrative costs incurred by the states.




LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Strengthening Local Processing Act (H.R. 1258 & S. 370)

This bipartisan legislation would provide funding opportunities for meat processing training, modernizing outdated processing facilities and provide technical assistance for food safety programs. NASDA supports this legislation.

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