

# National Association of State Departments of Agriculture



## Subject of Policy Amendment 9:

Farm Bill Programs

## Section Number or Title to be Amended:

12.2 Farm Income and Production Stability

## Submitted by:

Secretary Jeff M. Witte, New Mexico, and Director Alexis Taylor, Oregon

## Text of Policy Amendment:

NASDA recognizes the opportunities and risks of the market economy and uncontrollable conditions that threaten farm income and production stability. We encourage, modern comprehensive risk management tools encompassing commodity programs, marketing, and crop insurance programs vital to maintaining an affordable, reliable food supply. We encourage comprehensive and reliable disaster assistance programs that cover all segments of agriculture using the best available data for declared disasters. U.S. farm policy must balance the cost of agricultural production, the need for a market-driven safety net, and the compounding impacts of declared disasters, while finding innovative ways to support producers and provide a consistent, affordable food supply. NASDA encourages Congress and USDA to work with state departments of agriculture in the development and implementation of new products and programs.

- NASDA believes federal policies should support and ensure farm profit viability and production stability.
- NASDA believes financial tools that assist beginning and financially distressed producers should be developed and enhanced through federal, state, and private resources.

## Farm Bill Programs

- NASDA encourages adequate funding for all FSA loan programs. NASDA supports wide access to FSA programs and encourages FSA to develop materials to help producers graduate to commercial credit.

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- NASDA believes the FSA beginning farmer down payment program should be improved by extending the program's current loan amortization to 30 years. NASDA recommends removing "Aggie Bonds" from the individual state limits on bond volumes.
- NASDA recommends reviewing the eligibility criteria for all Farm Bill programs to increase opportunities for participation.
- NASDA supports the equitable and timely administration of disaster response and recovery programs that are nimble enough to address the numerous dynamic variables of agricultural production such as localized price, transportation, and production standards.
- NASDA believes crop and livestock insurance and disaster programs must complement one another to ensure adequate coverage for producers, while working with risk management programs.
- NASDA supports specialty crop insurance development that indemnifies growers based on quality or price of the intended market and allows use in alternative markets. Specialty crop insurance products should be made available to commodity specific producers who request coverage.
- NASDA believes risk management tools must be flexible, comprehensive, and readily available to producers. Programs should allow for frequent updating of production data and utilize sound actuarial practices.
- In addition, the federal government should provide a commodity safety net in a manner that minimizes production distortion.

**Adopted:** September 29, 2022