

# NASDA 2022 POLICY PRIORITIES

NASDA influences national food and agricultural policy by harnessing our members’ unique role of serving as the nexus between federal and state regulation.

NASDA members establish the organization’s policy priorities annually.

Read more about our policy engagement and view our full spectrum of policy positions at [www.nasda.org/policy](http://www.nasda.org/policy).

## WHY WE DO IT

A thriving agriculture industry is important for people everywhere, including urban areas, helping to provide life’s necessities at affordable prices and in a healthy, sustainable manner.

From the farm to Capitol Hill to the international marketplace, NASDA ardently works to ensure agricultural and food businesses of all sizes thrive.



## ANIMAL HEALTH

To best protect animals from disease, it is important that state and federal institutions have ample funding and resources to detect diseases early and deploy first rate surveillance, response and control strategies.

To comprehensively support enhanced coordination between USDA-APHIS’ veterinary services and regional-state alliances, NASDA supports recognizing the importance of a One Health approach safeguarding animal, public and environmental health.



## CLIMATE RESILIENCY

NASDA members suggest congressionally funded research programs and forecasting tools that help agriculture adapt to the effects of climate change, such as increased pests and disease, increases in extreme weather events and more.

Support and funding for voluntary, incentive-based climate smart agricultural programs are imperative, including support through Farm Bill programs.



## FOOD SAFETY

NASDA members are responsible for food safety outreach, inspections and enforcement of produce and animal food safety programs within their states. NASDA, state agencies and the U.S.

FDA work collaboratively to meet the goal of preventing foodborne illnesses. NASDA supports additional funding for implementation of all Food Safety Modernization Act programs at the state level.



## FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

NASDA sees meat processors, local food banks and reducing food waste as key elements to strengthening our food system. NASDA suggests increased funding support for all meat processors, regardless of

inspection method. NASDA also supports dedicated funding for state agricultural departments to support the purchase of local food for food banks to increase food security and add resiliency to the food supply chain.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

The entire agriculture industry from pre-farm gate to consumer plate needs consistent and dependable broadband access and transportation systems to move agricultural products and equipment, expand markets

and provide financial sustainability for businesses. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides historic investments in American infrastructure, and NASDA is working closely with the administration to implement new programs.



## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

To increase export opportunities for U.S. food, agriculture and forestry producers, federal policies must leverage existing trade relationships and secure new agreements to increase market access and reduce non-tariff trade barriers. Congress and the administration must fully fund trade promotion programs and engage with global trade institutions to promote standard setting processes long adopted by the U.S. and the vast majority of the world’s food producing countries.



## WORKFORCE

NASDA suggests Congress respect and recognize the importance of our current experienced workforce to the sustainability of U.S.-based agricultural production and food security. Federal policies must create

a pathway to earn legal status based on agricultural work experience. The policies should use a market-based approach to wages and allow guest workers employment in all types of agriculture, not just those occupations limited to seasonality.



## WATERS OF THE U.S.

The Clean Water Act established a cooperative approach between federal and state governments to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation’s waters. It is

imperative the federal government respect that the primary responsibility for water resources rests with states. Federal policies must ensure state laws regarding water are honored and given maximum flexibility in the management of their water resources and their water quality programs.



# FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS

## NASS: COUNTING FOR IMPACT

Through NASDA’s cooperative agreement with USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, NASDA employs about 2,800 enumerators across the nation to collect data on agricultural production. This data, found in crucial reports such as the Census of Agriculture, is vital for the agriculture economy and reducing risk in production, marketing and distribution operations. This data also guides innovative research and is essential for making educated policy decisions at all levels of government.



## U.S. FDA: A PREVENTATIVE APPROACH

Through the NASDA Foundation’s agreement with the U.S. FDA, NASDA helps states implement the Food Safety Modernization Act. Specifically, NASDA helps train farmers on the new produce safety rules and helps states implement proactive safety measures when processing animal and pet foods.

## USDA FAS: SHOWCASING AMERICA’S BEST

NASDA’s cooperative agreement with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service’s Market Access Program markets American-grown products to international buyers. NASDA produces two annual nationwide trade shows that help small and medium size U.S. food and beverage companies export their products and assists with organizing U.S. pavilions in events outside the U.S.

# NASDA FOUNDATION

The NASDA Foundation enhances agriculture through education, outreach and research.

The Foundation is the only educational and research organization that directly serves state departments of agriculture in all 50 states and four U.S. territories.

The Foundation works together with NASDA to achieve our shared purpose of nourishing people and communities while serving as the stewards of the environment and public trust.

## JOIN US

### NASDA NEWS

NASDA News is our monthly newsletter keeping subscribers updated on NASDA’s work, state agriculture department activities, industry news, career opportunities and more.

To subscribe, visit [www.nasda.org](http://www.nasda.org) and hit “subscribe” in the menu tab.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow NASDA on social media to share our story with us.



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE

## WHO WE ARE

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries and directors of the departments of agriculture in all 50 states and four U.S. territories as a nonpartisan, nonprofit association. As the chief agricultural official in their state, NASDA members ensure that agriculture and food production is safe and sustainable across the nation. As a representative of and voice for all American agriculture, NASDA encourages all types of agricultural production.

## OUR MISSION

NASDA’s mission is to enhance American food and agricultural communities through policy, partnerships and public engagement.



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