

ANIMAL HEALTH

FOREIGN & EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

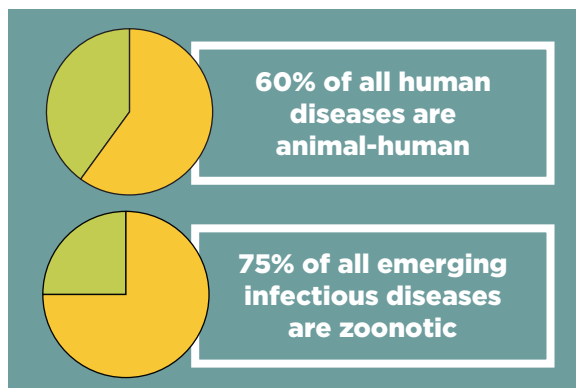


ISSUE

NASDA is committed to working with intergovernmental agencies and industry stakeholders to foster a collaborative approach to animal health initiatives. State departments of agriculture regulate and oversee animal health programs in their states to protect against an animal disease outbreak and secure our food supply.

BACKGROUND

An outbreak of a foreign animal disease could cripple the entire agricultural sector with long-lasting ramifications for the economic viability of U.S. livestock production. Timely prevention, identification, control, and, where appropriate, eradication of animal diseases is essential to U.S. agricultural production, food security, public health, animal welfare and international market access.



State departments of agriculture recognize the importance of cross-agency collaboration to accomplish the goal of safeguarding animal, public and environmental health comprehensively. During the pandemic, our nation leveraged animal health infrastructure through a coordinated one health approach to support the COVID-19 pandemic response while also ensuring the safety of the country's food supply. NASDA acknowledges with animal-human diseases accounting for nearly 60 percent of all human diseases and 75 percent of all emerging infectious diseases being zoonotic, now more than ever we must adapt and recognize the bi-directional movement of high-

consequence diseases and be prepared to prevent and mitigate such occurrences. Collaboration and planning are critical, and we must prepare now to avoid the next pandemic.

NASDA recognizes that establishing strong animal health collaboration could save billions worth of losses in the future from economically devastating diseases, such as mad cow disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, avian and swine influenza and classical African swine fever. For example, during the 2015 outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, rapid coordination and confirmation allowed for depopulation of infected flocks and the establishment of safety protocols around infected farms. This outbreak had a \$3.3 billion economic impact on the U.S. economy, according to Farm Econ LLC. The current Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak has shown the importance of making sure state and federal animal health officials have the needed tools and resources available to effectively respond to foreign, transboundary and emerging diseases.

The detection of African swine fever in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the highly contagious viral disease affecting both domestic and feral hogs, has shown the importance of increasing emergency preparedness in the U.S. African swine fever is a devastating, deadly disease that would have significant impacts across the food supply chain. There is no treatment or vaccine available for this disease. If African Swine Fever were to hit the U.S., the National Pork Board estimates it could cost the U.S. pork industry as much as [\\$8 billion](#) a year. NASDA will seek to partner with



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industry and federal stakeholders to create a united force for rapidly eradicating African swine fever and protecting food supply and economic continuity.

The 2018 Farm Bill established a three-tiered program to deliver the development and timely deployment of all measures necessary to prevent, identify and mitigate the potentially catastrophic impacts of an animal disease outbreak.

NASDA supports fully funding these critical programs:

- National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank
- National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program
- National Animal Health Laboratory Networks



NASDA also supports the continuation of these programs in the 2023 Farm Bill. Established strong networks among animal disease programs will help foster successful and timely actions to prevent the negative impacts of disease outbreaks.

NASDA'S LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

As Congress considers animal health initiatives, NASDA recommends the following criteria:

- Support the funding and resources needed to maintain a robust state and federal animal health infrastructure necessary to facilitate early detection, surveillance, response and control activities to prevent and mitigate both domestic and foreign animal diseases.
- Enhance investment in science-based research needed to advance diagnostics, vaccines, and other response or treatment options to current or emerging animal diseases and programs for outreach, education, and implementation of science-based biosecurity protocols.
- Support enhanced coordination between USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services and regional state alliances to improve the nation's integrated animal health network through an integrated approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to livestock disease outbreaks of national significance.
- Recognize the rights of state jurisdictions to adopt and enforce statutes, regulations, or policies that may be more restrictive than federal requirements.
- Respect for and recognition of the importance of agriculture's voice at both the federal and state level in a One Health approach of collaborating to accomplish the goal of safeguarding animal, public and environmental health comprehensively.
- NASDA supports increased oversight at the borders to prevent disease introduction.
- NASDA supports efforts to help address the shortage of food animal veterinarians practicing in underserved areas.
- NASDA supports increased dedicated funding available to states to facilitate the build-out of critical animal disease traceability infrastructure such as radio-frequency identification technology.

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