



Policy Materials

2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference

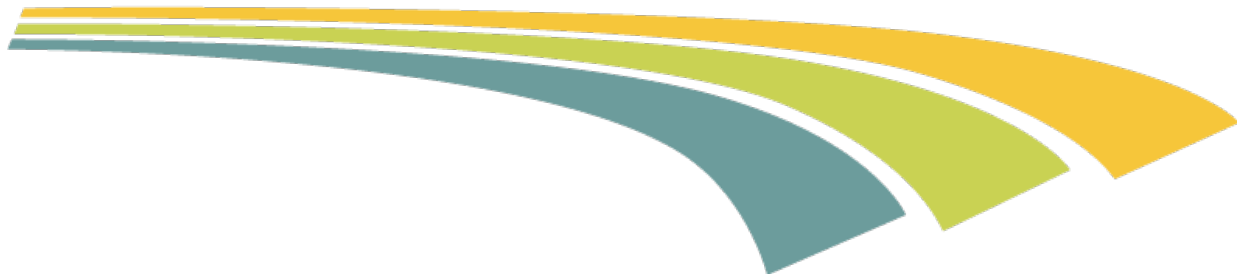
- Committee Agendas
- Policy Amendments & Action Items

Please note printed policy books will NOT be available at this year's meeting. All documents are available on our app.

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NASDA



Committee Agendas

2024 Winter Policy Conference

Food Systems and Nutrition Committee

Chair: Secretary Karen Ross, California

Vice-Chair: Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt, Connecticut

NASDA Staff Contact: Becky Garrison Warfel

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 12:30 PM-1:30 PM ET | 2024 Winter Policy Conference | Conservatory B/C

Opening Remarks (12:30)

- Secretary Ross, California
- Commissioner Hurlburt, Connecticut

Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items (12:35)

- Policy Amendment 3: Food Waste Reduction

FDA Cooperative Agreements Update (12:45)

- Joe Reardon, *Senior Director, Food Safety Programs, NASDA Foundation*
- Bob Ehart, *Senior Advisor, Policy & Science, NASDA Foundation*

Post-Pandemic Progress: Expansion, Regional Aggregation, and Investments in Equipment for Food Banks & Food Systems (1:00)

- Vince Hall, *Chief Government Relations Officer, Feeding America*

Adjourn (1:30)

Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Chair: Secretary Michael Scuse, Delaware

Vice-Chair: Secretary Jeff Witte, New Mexico

NASDA Contact: Stephanie McBath

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET | 2024 Winter Policy Conference | Grand D

Opening Remarks (12:30)

- Secretary Scuse, Delaware
- Secretary Witte, New Mexico

Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items (12:35)

- Policy Amendment 1: Indemnity for Historic PFAS Land Application
- Policy Amendment 8: Farmland Preservation
- Policy Amendment 9: Reducing Administrative Barriers to Conservation Programs
- Policy Amendment 10: Support for Federal Soil Health Funding

Panel Discussion: Natural Resource and Climate Issues on the Hill: Congressional Outlook (12:50)

- Chris Marklund, *Deputy Staff Director, House Committee on Natural Resources*
- Adam Battalio, *Legislative Assistant, Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)*

Member Dialogue (1:25)

- Open Discussion

Adjourn (1:30)

Animal Agriculture Committee

Chair: Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, Tennessee

Vice-Chair: Secretary Mike Naig, Iowa

NASDA Contact: Stephanie McBath

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET | 2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference | Grand D

Opening Remarks (2:00)

- Commissioner Hatcher, Tennessee
- Secretary Naig, Iowa

Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items (2:05)

- Policy Amendment 11: mRNA Vaccines
- Action Item A: Pet Food Label Modernization Enforcement Discretion for States
- Action Item B: State Meat Inspection Program Funding

Panel Discussion: *Foreign Animal Disease and Traceability: 2024 Outlook* (2:10)

- Dr. Kathy Simmons, *Chief Veterinarian, National Cattleman's Beef Association*
- Dr. Jamie Jonker, *Chief Science Officer and Vice President, Sustainability & Scientific Affairs, National Milk Producers Federation*
- Dr. Rosemary Sifford, *United States Chief Veterinary Officer, USDA-APHIS*

Member Dialogue (2:50)

- Open Discussion

Adjourn (3:00)

Rural Development and Financial Security Committee

Chair: Commissioner Kent Leonhardt, West Virginia

Vice-Chair: Secretary Anson Tebbetts, Vermont

NASDA Contact: Josie Montoney-Crawford

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 2:00-3:00 PM ET | 2024 Winter Policy Conference | Conservatory B/C

Roll Call and Opening Remarks (2:00)

- Commissioner Leonhardt, West Virginia
- Secretary Anson Tebbetts, Vermont

Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items (2:05)

- Policy Amendment 2: Farmworker Housing
- Policy Amendment 4: Farm Management Resources
- Policy Amendment 5: Farm Safety
- Policy Amendment 6: Tax Incentives to Help New and Beginning Farmers
- Policy Amendment 7: Technical Service Providers for Conservation
- Action Item C: Solar and Agriculture Compatibility

USDA Update on Renewable Energy Activities (2:20)

- Aliza Drewes, *Senior Advisor, Rural Utilities Service, USDA*

Smart Solar Recommendations (2:45)

- Samantha Levy, *Conservation and Climate Policy Manager, American Farmland Trust*

Adjourn (3:00)

Marketing and International Trade Committee

Chair: Commissioner Richard Ball, New York

Vice-Chair: Secretary Mike Beam, Kansas

NASDA Contact: RJ Karney

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 3:30 – 4:30 PM ET | 2024 Winter Policy Conference | Grand D

Opening Remarks (3:30)

- Commissioner Richard Ball, New York
- Secretary Mike Beam, Kansas

USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs (3:35)

- Jenny Moffitt, *Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs*

US-UK Trade Relations Update (4:05)

- Paul Rennie, *Minister-Counsellor, Trade & Global Issues, British Embassy*

Policy Amendments and Action Items (4:25)

- N/A

Member Dialogue (4:25)

Adjourn (4:30)

Plant Agriculture & Pesticide Regulation Committee

Chair: Director Chris Chinn, Missouri

Vice-Chair: Director Chanel Tewalt, Idaho

NASDA Staff Contact: Josie Montoney-Crawford

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | 3:30 – 4:30pm | 2024 Winter Policy Conference | Conservatory B/C

Opening Remarks (3:30)

- Director Chris Chinn, Missouri
- Director Chanel Tewalt, Idaho

USDA APHIS Update (3:35)

- Dr. Michael Watson, *Administrator, USDA APHIS*

Grower Perspectives on Pesticide Regulatory Decisions (3:40)

- John Walt Boatright, *Director, Government Affairs, American Farm Bureau Federation*
- Edward Ruckert, *Legal Counsel, Minor Crop Farmers Alliance*

Consideration of Policy Amendments and Action Items (4:15)

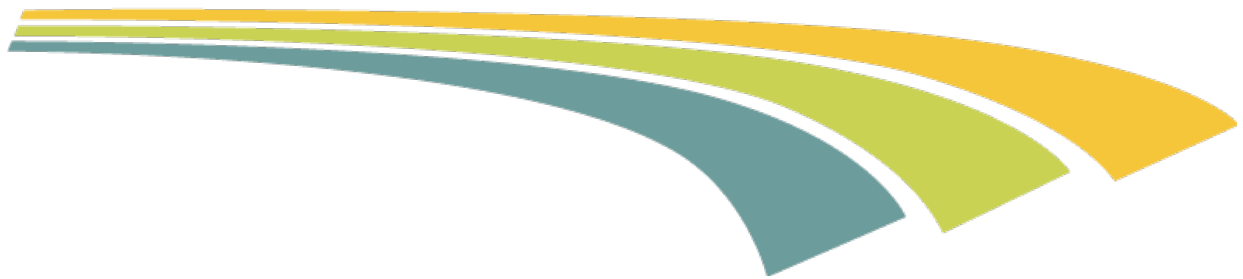
- N/A

Member Dialogue (4:15)

- Open Discussion

Adjourn (4:30)

NASDA



Policy Amendments and Action Items

2024 Winter Policy Conference

| Proposed Policy Amendments | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Policy Amendment Number</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Submitted By</i> | <i>Committee</i> | <i>Policy Book Page Number</i> | <i>Passed</i> | <i>Passed with Amendment</i> | <i>Failed</i> |
| 1 | Indemnity for Historic PFAS Land Application | Secretary Jeff Witte (NM) Commissioner Amanda Beal (ME) Director Tim Boring (MI) | Natural Resources & Environment | | | | |
| 2 | Farmworker Housing | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Rural Development & Financial Security | | | | |
| 3 | Food Waste Reduction | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Food Systems & Nutrition | | | | |
| 4 | Farm Management Resources | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Rural Development & Financial Security | | | | |
| 5 | Farm Safety | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Rural Development & Financial Security | | | | |
| 6 | Tax Incentives to Help New and Beginning Farmers | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Rural Development & Financial Security | | | | |
| 7 | Technical Service Providers for Conservation | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Rural Development & Financial Security | | | | |
| 8 | Improvement of Federal Farmland Preservation Programs | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Natural Resources & Environment | | | | |
| 9 | Reducing Administrative Barriers to Conservation Programs | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Natural Resources & Environment | | | | |
| 10 | Support for Federal Soil Health Funding | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Natural Resources & Environment | | | | |
| 11 | mRNA Vaccines | Secretary Mike Naig (IA) | Animal Agriculture | | | | |

States can still propose policy amendments and action items through their regional meetings. However, these proposals will require a 2/3 vote for passage throughout the process.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Policy Amendment Form

1

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Natural Resources and Environment

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Policy Amendments (PA) either create a new section or amend an existing section of NASDA’s Policy Statements. PAs establish general policy principles of the association and guide NASDA’s policy prioritization process and engagement.

Section Number and Title to be Amended:

Create a new section, 15.9 PFAS

Subject of Policy Amendment:

Indemnity for Historic PFAS Land Application

Submitted By:

Secretary Jeff Witte, New Mexico
Commissioner Amanda Beal, Maine
Director Tim Boring, Michigan

Text of Policy Amendment:

Move 4.10 Food Safety – PFAS to a new section, 15.9 PFAS

Make a change to 4.10 Food Safety – PFAS

NASDA supports federal legislation that increases state funding and resources to states for responding to identified and emerging toxic pollutants, particularly per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that impact farm and range lands, groundwater, surface water, livestock, and the nation’s food supply.

Insert a new subtitle:

Indemnity for Historic PFAS Land Application:

- NASDA supports indemnity for farmers and ranchers whose lands are contaminated with PFAS through the spreading of biosolids or biowaste, by contaminated water, or by any other means.
- NASDA encourages USDA, EPA, and FDA to work with state partners to identify farming operations affected by PFAS contamination and keep agricultural land productive, including supporting farmers and ranchers in accessing relevant federal and state assistance programs. In the absence of such programs, NASDA encourages the agencies to pursue necessary authorizations to create new or adjust existing programs to assist impacted farmers and ranchers in a timely manner and to ensure that federal agencies are using accurate data and engaging states when making robust policy decisions.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Policy Amendment Form

1

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Natural Resources and Environment

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

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- NASDA encourages EPA, USDA, and FDA to work with DOD to quickly address any contamination that has impacted or has the potential to affect agriculture production due to the use of PFAS-associated products in support of national defense.

Background & Rationale (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Policy Amendment or appear in the NASDA Policy Handbook):

Producers with PFAS-contaminated land and/or livestock face tremendous economic, personal, and often health-related challenges. This amendment encourages federal agencies to work with state partners to keep operations agriculturally productive and economically viable by offering financial support and providing access to effective federal and state assistance programs, either currently existing or to be created in response to this crisis.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Policy Amendment Form

4

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Rural Development and Financial Security

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Policy Amendments (PA) either create a new section or amend an existing section of NASDA’s Policy Statements. PAs establish general policy principles of the association and guide NASDA’s policy prioritization process and engagement.

Section Number and Title to be Amended:

12.2. Farm Income and Production Stability

Subject of Policy Amendment:

Farm Management Resources

Submitted By:

Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania

Text of Policy Amendment:

1. NASDA supports the creation of state block grant programs that provide technical assistance to farm owners to develop comprehensive farm management programs, including human resources services, farm administration, record keeping, and training programs.

Background & Rationale (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Policy Amendment or appear in the NASDA Policy Handbook):

Farmers sometimes struggle with the business side of agriculture, including the human resources aspects of the job, or the financial management of the business. By creating block grants at the federal level, states can then have access to funding to create training programs that meet the needs of producers in their state.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Policy Amendment Form

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To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24 **Committee:** Natural Resources and Environment

Adopted by NASDA Adopted with Amendment by NASDA Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Policy Amendments (PA) either create a new section or amend an existing section of NASDA’s Policy Statements. PAs establish general policy principles of the association and guide NASDA’s policy prioritization process and engagement.

Section Number and Title to be Amended:

7.2. Conservation Programs

Subject of Policy Amendment:

Improvement of Federal Farmland Preservation Programs

Submitted By:

Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania

1 **Text of Policy Amendment:**

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- 1. NASDA supports the establishment of a block grant structure and funding for USDA NRCS to provide funds directly to states for the purposes of preserving and protecting farmland through certified state preservation programs.

8 **Background & Rationale** (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Policy Amendment or appear in the NASDA Policy Handbook):

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Many states and land trusts are facing a backlog of interest in farmers wanting to participate in preservation and conservation easement programs. However, accessing federal dollars for preservation is often more cumbersome for preservation programs and federal preservation standards often act as a deterrent to farmer participation. Our request is to encourage the federal government to provide block grant funding to states and land trusts to speed up the preservation of valuable farmland.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Policy Amendment Form

10

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24 **Committee:** Natural Resources and Environment
 Adopted by NASDA Adopted with Amendment by NASDA Not Adopted by NASDA
Additional Notes:

Policy Amendments (PA) either create a new section or amend an existing section of NASDA’s Policy Statements. PAs establish general policy principles of the association and guide NASDA’s policy prioritization process and engagement.

Section Number and Title to be Amended:

7.1 Agriculture Conservation

Subject of Policy Amendment:

Support for Federal Soil Health Funding

Submitted By:

Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania

1 **Text of Policy Amendment:**
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- 3 1. NASDA supports dedicating federal funding to create or support existing voluntary, incentive-based state-
4 level soil health programs.

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7 **Background & Rationale** (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Policy
8 Amendment or appear in the NASDA Policy Handbook):
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10 A healthy soil is the building block for a thriving farm and a fundamental need in any conservation strategy.
11 There is a need for federal funding to support state-based programs that focus on best management practices
12 that improve soil health and help farmers incorporate new practices into their overall conservation strategy.
13 State-based approaches will work best due to their ability to be tailored to regional needs and variations.

| Proposed Action Items | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Action Item Letter</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Submitted By</i> | <i>Committee</i> | <i>Policy Book Page Number</i> | <i>Passed</i> | <i>Passed with Amendment</i> | <i>Failed</i> |
| A | Pet Food Label Modernization Enforcement Discretion for States | Commissioner Charles Hatcher (TN) | Animal Agriculture | | | | |
| B | Support for Appropriate Funding for State Meat Inspection Programs | Director Brian Baldrige (OH) Secretary Randy Romanski (WI) | Animal Agriculture | | | | |
| C | Solar and Agriculture Compatibility | Secretary Russell Redding (PA) | Rural Development & Financial Security | | | | |

States can still propose policy amendments and action items through their regional meetings. However, these proposals will require a 2/3 vote for passage throughout the process.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Action Item Form

A

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24 **Committee:** Animal Agriculture

Adopted by NASDA Adopted with Amendment by NASDA Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Action Items (AI) highlight a specific current issue Members feel NASDA should act on or other priority issues. AIs do not establish NASDA policy and must comply with existing policy or be accompanied by a corresponding Policy Amendment.

Subject of Action Item:

Pet Food Label Modernization Enforcement Discretion for States

Submitted By:

Commissioner Charles Hatcher, Tennessee

Corresponding Policy Section & Statement:

Section 4 (Food Regulation and Safety) Paragraph 3 (Roles and Responsibilities)

Text of Action Item:

NASDA encourages state feed regulatory programs with regulatory authority over pet food to:

- Swiftly and uniformly adopt the AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food by initiating necessary rulemaking while respecting and recognizing states’ individual legal authorities and regulatory processes.
- Work closely with pet food manufacturers and distributors within their state to set goals to achieve full implementation of the regulatory changes within an agreed-upon six-year grace period (the period of six years begins from the date of the availability of the printed version of the 2024 AAFCO Official Publication).
- Allow for the sale and distribution of pet food products that are compliant with state pet food regulations, or the newly approved regulations (Pet Food Labeling Modernization) model rules, by using enforcement discretion in the review of pet food labels during the six-year grace period.

NASDA strongly encourages state feed regulatory programs to utilize enforcement discretion in the review of pet food labels as soon as possible but no later than a period of six years from the date of the availability of the printed version of the 2024 AAFCO Official Publication.

NASDA encourages swift and uniform adoption of the AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food and encourages states to initiate this rulemaking process for uniform state feed regulatory programs while respecting and recognizing states’ individual legal authorities and regulatory processes.

Background & Rationale (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Action Item):

Since 2015, the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) has been working collaboratively with stakeholders to modernize and update the model regulations that set the requirements for pet food labeling. The ultimate goal was to provide consumers and regulators with labeling information that is transparent, easy to



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Action Item Form

A

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Animal Agriculture

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

27 understand, and in a format more familiar to consumers. This has been a meticulous process where AAFCO has
28 conducted multiple rounds of consumer research, formed numerous workgroups that consisted of both
29 regulators and pet food industry advisors, and solicited open feedback during a public comment period. The
30 final product came to fruition on July 31, 2023, when AAFCO membership voted to approve the changes in the
31 new Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food.

32
33 With the passage of the revised AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food, henceforth
34 called regulations, comes the important duty of rulemaking for individual states across the country that have
35 regulations for pet food and specialty pet food products. Each state has its own rulemaking process that outlines
36 how regulations need to be promulgated within the borders of their state.

37
38 AAFCO recommends that state feed regulatory programs utilize enforcement discretion in the review of pet
39 food labels for a period of six years, based on the date of the availability of the printed version of the 2024
40 Official Publication. AAFCO and stakeholders have worked together tirelessly over the past eight years to
41 develop these model regulations. Successful implementation of the regulations will require the same
42 cooperative effort.

43
44 As states begin the rulemaking process, AAFCO encourages members to allow for the distribution of pet food
45 products that are in compliance with current state pet food regulations, as well as the newly approved
46 regulations. Additionally, the association recommends state members work closely with pet food manufacturers
47 and distributors within their state to set a goal of achieving full implementation with the regulation changes
48 within the six-year period.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Action Item Form

B

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Animal Agriculture

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Action Items (AI) highlight a specific current issue Members feel NASDA should act on or other priority issues. AIs do not establish NASDA policy and must comply with existing policy or be accompanied by a corresponding Policy Amendment.

Subject of Action Item:

Support for Appropriate Funding for State Meat Inspection Programs

Submitted By:

Director Brian Baldrige, Ohio

Secretary Randy Romanski, Wisconsin

Corresponding Policy Section & Statement:

4.3 Roles & Responsibilities

State Meat Inspection Programs

1 **Text of Action Item:**

2 NASDA urges USDA and Congress to appropriately fund state meat inspection programs to ensure a healthy and
3 robust food supply. As such, NASDA shall:

- 4 1) Advocate to Congress for a language change in the Farm Bill to require USDA Food Safety and Inspection
5 Service (FSIS) to provide states with at least a full 50 % funding match, to ensure viability of state meat
6 inspection programs under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act.
- 7 2) Advocate to Congress for an increase in appropriations to FSIS to enable the agency to adequately fund state
8 programs.

9
10 **Background & Rationale** (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Action Item):

11 State and federal meat inspection programs should function together as a seamless system in both intrastate
12 and interstate commerce (NASDA Policy Statement).

13
14 Under a cooperative agreement with USDA’s FSIS, state meat inspection programs may receive up to 50%
15 funding for its inspection activities. Traditionally, FSIS has provided state programs with the full 50% match.
16 However, in recent years, FSIS has been providing state programs with significantly less funding. For example, in
17 federal fiscal year 2023, Ohio received federal funding covering only 43% of the base program costs.

18
19 In recent years, USDA and state governments have provided grants to support independently owned meat and
20 poultry processing businesses. These grants have been intended to provide additional and more efficient
21 processing options for local livestock producers by modernizing, increasing, diversifying, and decentralizing meat
22 and poultry processing capacity. Relatedly, states have seen dramatic increases in the number of fully inspected
23 slaughter establishments, many of which are subject to state meat and poultry inspection.

24
25 Consistent funding is critical to providing services state establishments need to meet federal and state
26 regulations for daily inspection and oversight of slaughter and processing for small to medium-sized operations,
27 at a fraction of the cost of federal inspections.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Action Item Form

B

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Animal Agriculture

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

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The reduction in federal funding is impacting state services and the meat processing industry. With limited staff, states lose the ability to support the growth of existing establishments expanding operations or additional harvesting days. The reduction limits staff, including veterinarians, and makes response time slower, resulting in disruptions to operations. Without additional resources, states will be forced to turn away facilities for state inspection, resulting in higher costs for processors to receive federal inspection or a reduction in the amount of processing capacity available for farmers.

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If Congress fails to provide sufficient funding to support the 50% funding threshold for states, then a potential outcome is that states may elect to suspend their meat inspection programs, wherein FSIS is required under federal law to pick up 100% of the cost of providing inspections.



2024 NASDA Winter Policy Conference Action Item Form

C

To be completed by NASDA Staff:

Date Submitted: 1/5/24

Committee: Rural Development and Financial Security

Adopted by NASDA

Adopted with Amendment by NASDA

Not Adopted by NASDA

Additional Notes:

Action Items (AI) highlight a specific current issue Members feel NASDA should act on or other priority issues. AIs do not establish NASDA policy and must comply with existing policy or be accompanied by a corresponding Policy Amendment.

Subject of Policy Amendment:

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Solar and Agriculture Compatibility

Submitted By:

Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania

Corresponding Policy Section & Statement:

13.6 Bioeconomy and Energy (corresponding policy)

Text of Action Item:

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NASDA supports additional research related to solar development, including agrivoltaic compatibility, impacts on farmland, farmland conversion, land access and transition, and farm viability. Research should include partnerships with state agencies, local and county governments and colleges and universities.

Background & Rationale (Note: Information in this section will not be included in the final text of the Policy Amendment or appear in the NASDA Policy Handbook):

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Solar and agriculture may have the opportunity to have compatible land uses. There are some developers working towards building systems that include agriculture instead of being installed on agriculture lands with no thought to future agricultural use. However, it is important to have specific research dedicated to determining the types of crops, or cropping systems, that grow under or around solar panels.