



NASDA Foundation Impact Report 2026

Turning Collaboration into Measurable
Impact Across American Agriculture

NASDA Foundation Strategic Plan

Vision NASDA is an indispensable champion for a thriving American agriculture and food system.	Purpose To sustain and enrich individuals and communities with essential food, feed, fuel, and fiber.	Mission Engage state departments of agriculture to enhance American food and agricultural communities through education, outreach, and research.
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State departments of agriculture enjoy the following core member benefits:

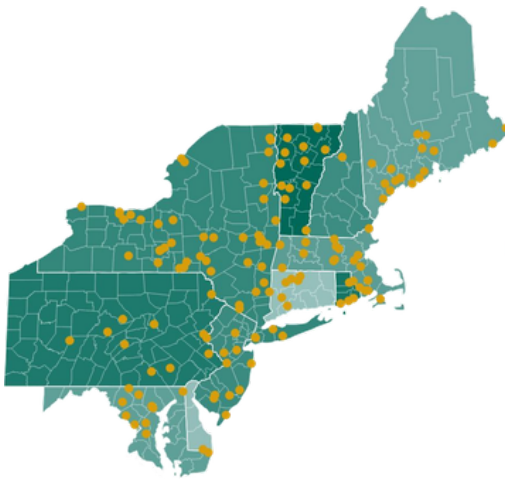
- ✔ Grant Writing & Management Support
 - ✔ Data & Reporting Tools
 - ✔ Strategic Planning & Program Design
- ✔ Convening & Peer Learning
 - ✔ Communications & Storytelling
 - ✔ Training & Workforce Development

Pillar	Description	Current Projects and Programs	Policy Priorities
 Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)	Expand cooperation between state and federal agencies to create a secure, resilient food supply	• FSMA Cooperative Agreements	• Food Safety
 Business Development	Create opportunities for skillbuilding and career advancement in agriculture to address workforce challenges in the ag sector	• NASDA Next Generation • Farm2Food Accelerator • Northeast Business Builder	• Agriculture Labor Reform
 Rural Development	Address economic growth and resilience in rural communities to advocate for programs that support rural infrastructure	• Farm2Food Accelerator • Northeast Business Builder	• Infrastructure • Regional Food Procurement and Distribution • Energy
 Natural Resources Stewardship	Center on conservation and sustainably managed farmland to integrate environmental stewardship with agricultural development	• EPA Water Quality • PIRT (Pesticide Inspector Residential Training) • OPMP (Office of Pesticide Management Policy) ESA Training	• Pesticide Regulations • State Regulatory Harmonization • Plant Pest and Diseases • WOTUS • PFAS
 Food & Nutrition Security	Improve access to safe and nutritious food to address food insecurity by emphasizing the importance of a safe and secure food supply chain including local and regional foods	• Northeast Business Builder	• Food Safety • Regional Food Procurement & Distribution • Food As Medicine • Food Waste & Surplus Crop Utilization

Northeast Business Builder Program

The Business Builder subaward program equipped small- and mid-sized farm and food business with funding to develop and amplify regional supply chains in the Northeast. Throughout 11 states and Washington, D.C., 644 applicants requested \$43 million in grant funding.

Through May 31, 2026, NASDA Foundation managed 145 Business Builder subawardees. These grant recipients represented a wide range of agricultural sectors, business types, and experience levels throughout the Northeast. This grant funding helped them grow their operations, purchase special equipment, drive product development, expand into new markets, and more.



Funding by Type



Equipment
\$5,717,441



Fringe
\$81,402



Contractual
\$1,688,675



Travel
\$23,341



Personnel
\$914,889



Other
\$178,411



Supplies
\$777,299



11

AWARDS TO NEW BUSINESSES
(ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE PAST
12 MONTHS)



134

AWARDS TO ESTABLISHED
BUSINESSES

Food Safety Modernization Act

NASDA Foundation is in its second year of the Produce Safety Cooperative Agreement with FDA. A new Animal Food Cooperative agreement was awarded in September of 2025 and extends through August of 2028. This past year, the NASDA Foundation Produce Integration Group doubled from five state representatives to 10 and we also established reoccurring regional calls with the states.



25

STATE
ATTENDEES

state attendees at aseptic
sampling for produce
inspectors course



4

REGIONAL
TRAININGS

Pre-harvest Agriculture
Water: 4 regional
trainings with 167 state
regulators trained



354

STATE, FEDERAL,
AND EXTENSION
PARTNER ATTENDEES

at virtual produce
safety consortium



3

FARM TOURS

with state leadership
from Virginia,
California, Arizona



Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT)

NASDA Foundation's Pesticide Inspector Residential Training program provides national education to inspectors and enforcement staff of pesticide state lead agencies, territories and tribes. Courses support foundational training, nationwide priority topics, and regional differences, helping to provide consistency across state boundaries and support the regulated community

In its 2025 inaugural year, PIRT hosted **130+ leaders participated in the following courses:**

- ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP (PA)
- BASIC STRUCTURAL PIRT (GA)
- WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS PIRT (MI)
- INSPECTOR BASICS PIRT (VT)

4 COURSES AND 1 WORKSHOP

133 PARTICIPANTS FROM 39 STATES, 2 TERRITORIES, 15 TRIBES

32 FEDERAL PARTICIPANTS AND SPEAKERS ENGAGED



“

PIRT Training not only gives you the opportunity to refresh your core knowledge as a pesticide inspector, but you also get to learn and meet people from different states and territories who do the same work you do and more.

- State Inspector

Farmer-to-Farmer Water Quality

The EPA Historically Underserved Farmers Grant program gives funding to on-the-ground organizations working to drive practical, cost-effective, sustainable approaches to natural resource management as part of operational efficiency and profitability.

\$2M

Over \$2M distributed to farmers in the Ohio-Tennessee region

14

project partners in 5 states (KY, TN, WV, VA, PA)

176

176 communities impacted

2,000+

participants at workshops/events

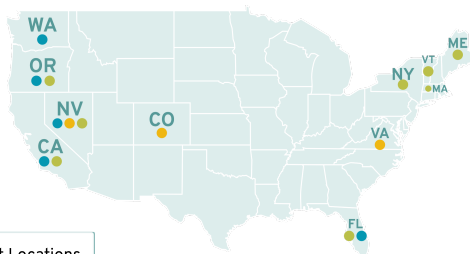
60

farmers / community entities that completed conservation practices



Farm2Food Accelerator

In 2025, Farm2Food expanded from research into implementation, delivering five active programs across national and state-based cohorts, providing needs-based curriculum and expert assistance, supporting producer participation in two trade shows, and adding new curriculum supplements to address the most common challenges facing small-scale, value-added food businesses.



- Active 2025 Programs
- Past Programs
- 2025 Nationwide Participant Locations

TOP CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED THROUGH THIS RESEARCH INCLUDED:

- Access to capital and funding
- Navigating regulations and licensing
- Scaling up and infrastructure needs
- Workload management and time constraints
- Project scoping and grant writing
- Connecting with existing resources and fellow value-added producers
- Adding capacity through hiring employees and consultants

No one-size-fits-all answer exists for all these challenges. But for small-scale, value-added food producers, we identified and successfully implemented these recommended solutions:

- Focused **financial support** via micro-grants or paid assistance
- In-depth personalized/individualized **assistance**
- Quick, comprehensive, aggregated **information resources**
- Facilitation of **connections** that can be utilized as needed

PROGRAM	NEEDS-BASED CURRICULUM CUSTOMIZATION	IN-PERSON EVENTS AND WEBINARS	COHORT-BASED WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EXPERT ASSISTANCE	GOALS
Nationwide Market Diversification & Exploring Exporting (2 programs)	✓	✓	✓	• Value-added production • Advanced market and trade show readiness • Introduction to SRTGs, FAS, and exporting • Food safety & compliance
 Nevada 2024-25	✓	✓	✓	• Value-added production • Local needs-based customization • Food safety & compliance
 Colorado 2024-25	✓	✓		• Value-added production • Local needs-based customization • Food safety & compliance
 Virginia 2024-25	✓			• Value-added production • Local needs-based customization • Food safety & compliance



NASDA Next Generation

Since its launch, the NASDA Next Generation program has engaged more than 250 students pursuing careers in agriculture. Through participation in NASDA's Winter Policy Conference and Annual Meeting, students gain firsthand exposure to state and federal agricultural policy, connect with industry leaders, and build professional networks that support their future careers. The program fosters leadership development, industry awareness, and lasting peer relationships among the next generation of agricultural professionals.

“ The knowledge I gained of global agriculture and trade, along with the valuable connections I made, were some of the most valuable aspects of this trip for me.

2025 NASDA Next Generation Cohort Member