

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA): *Overview*

National Plant Board Annual Meeting

August, 2019

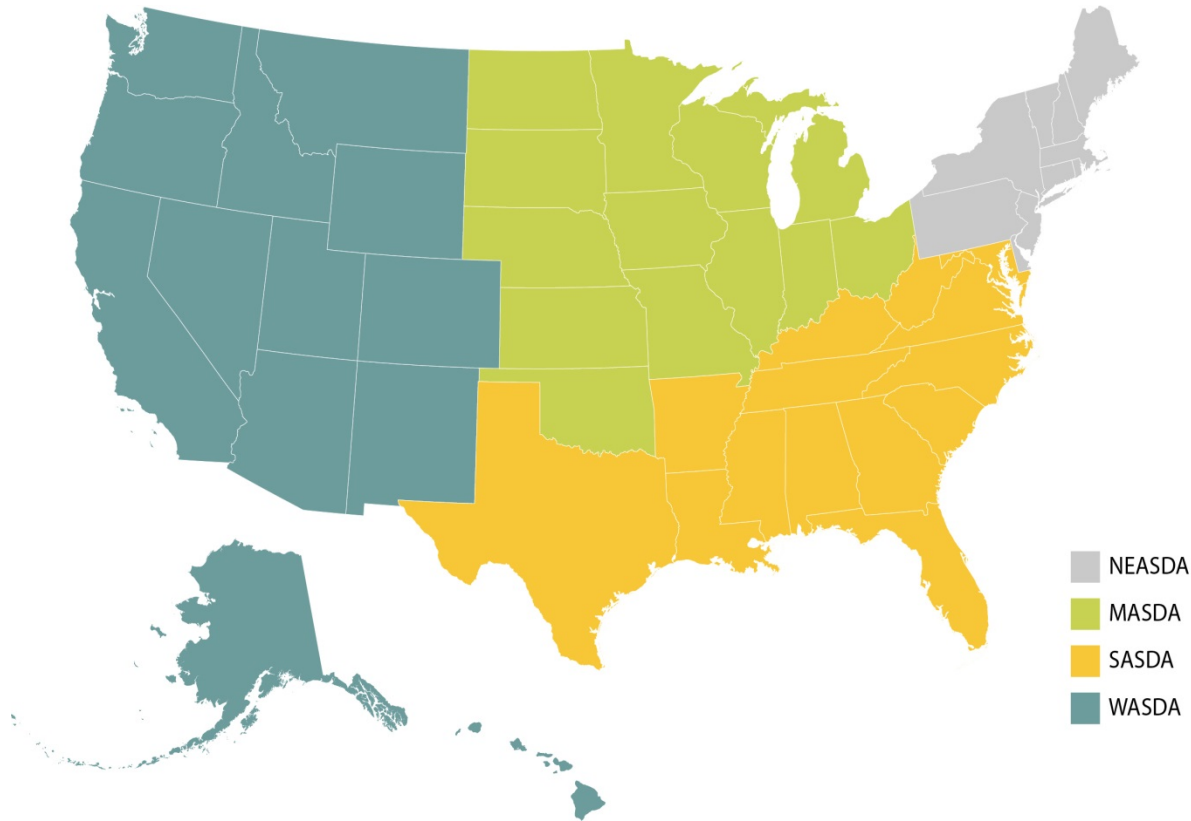


Who is NASDA?

- **National Association of State Departments of Agriculture: Founded in 1916**
- **Non-profit, non-partisan association (501c6)**
- **Washington office opened in 1968**
- **Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of Agriculture in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories**
 - **12 are elected, all others are appointed**



NASDA Regions



NASDA Mission Statement

Our mission is to grow and enhance agriculture by forging partnerships and creating consensus to achieve sound policy outcomes between state departments of agriculture, the federal government, and stakeholders.



NASDA Policy Committees

1. Animal Agriculture
2. Food Regulation & Safety
3. Marketing & International Trade
4. Natural Resources & Environment
5. Plant Agriculture & Pesticide Regulation
6. Rural Development & Financial Security



NASDA Policy Priorities 2019

- **International Trade**
 - **Ratification of USMCA**
 - **New bilateral agreements**
- **Food Safety Modernization Act**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Animal Biotechnology**



Plant Agriculture & Pesticide Regulation Committee Priorities

- **Policy Engagement:**
 - **Farm Bill Implementation**
 - Hemp provisions
 - **Plant Biotechnology**
 - Part 340 – public comments
 - **FIFRA**
 - AEZ
 - **State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)**
 - **Affiliate Coordination (AAPCO and NPB)**



Other issues: USDA Cooperative Agreements

- Earlier in the year, new approval process was established
 - Some CAs were impacted
 - NASDA met with USDA officials to express concerns
 - Northeastern Plant Board Letter
 - NASDA's president quickly replied to concerns
 - USDA made some adjustments
 - NASDA is not aware of any issues at this point with CAs
- Lessons learned? Unique situation, early communication amongst NASDA and NASDA affiliates is critical



What has happened since we last spoke?

- The congressional freshman class of 2019 is the most racially diverse and most female group of representatives ever elected to the House
- NASDA has met with all new members of House and Senate Ag. Committee
- Education around Agriculture is key!



2020 Senate Elections

Senate Elections:

- **2018: Democrats had more seats up for re-election**
- **2020: Republicans have more seats up for re-election**
 - **22 Republicans and 12 Democrats**
 - **Republicans: very solid red states**
 - **Democrats: states that Trump won by double digits**
 - **Senate races will (again!) be very competitive, with Republicans favored to keep majority**
 - **Democrats must win 4 seats to take control**



2020 Presidential Election

- Democratic Candidates connecting agriculture to other pressing issues:
 - Climate change, food insecurity, economic development, industry consolidation, etc.
- Food and farming have not traditionally been high-profile campaign issues. That could change in 2020.
- Outreach to campaigns will start soon



How will elections impact NASDA's engagement?

- **Short term:**
 - **Best outcome: Passage of USMCA**
 - **After summer recess: gridlock**
- **Long term:**
 - **Depending on the outcome of the elections, NASDA will be challenged to engage in policy issues that it hasn't engaged in the past**
 - **We will also be challenged to work with organizations that we traditionally have not engaged**



Thank you & Questions?

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