



**National Association of State Departments of Agriculture**

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March 29, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Room S-146A, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Leahy and Ranking Member Granger:

As Congress advances fiscal year 2020 (FY20) appropriations legislation for federal agencies, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) encourages you to support vital programs to ensure a safe, affordable, and abundant food supply, as well as the economic vitality of communities across the country. We respectfully request that you preserve and enhance the various rural programs under your jurisdiction for FY20. In particular, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 has presented new opportunities we encourage the committees to support.

NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of agriculture in all fifty states and four territories. As elected and appointed officials, NASDA members are strong advocates for American agriculture and are partners with several federal agencies in regulating, promoting, and providing services to the agricultural industry. The lapse in appropriations earlier this year highlighted the reliance state programs have on federal funds to administer federal policy. During the lapse, important activities halted and state staff faced unpaid furloughs. Consistent, full-year funding is key to continued participation in our federal-state partnerships and to encourage new partnerships.

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

### Integrated Food Safety System

- **Fund Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) State Implementation Programs at \$60 million**

NASDA requests the committee to continue to invest in the state implementation activities that are required by FSMA. 46 states and 1 territory have signed Cooperative Agreements with FDA to implement the Produce Safety Rule encompassing outreach & education and 44 states are taking on compliance and enforcement responsibilities. It is crucial that Congress provide sufficient and consistent resources to avoid unfunded mandates on the states and to ensure farmers have the tools and education necessary to comply with these new federal requirements.

NASDA continues to estimate state programs will need an investment of \$60 million annually to ensure the systematic and timely implementation of the elements of FSMA for which states have primary responsibility. Thanks to the committees' hard work, we have previously reached the goal of funding the states' Produce Safety rule implementation needs at \$40 million, but funding is also necessary for the development and operation of programs associated with the *Preventive Controls: Animal Food* rule. Increased workload in the Preventive Controls for Animal Food implementation has necessitated a corresponding increase in funding. Specifically, NASDA estimates the following funding levels for state programs are necessary:

- **Produce Safety:** \$40 million annually for state programs
- **Preventive Controls Animal Food:** \$20 million annually for state programs

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### New Programs – Farm Bill Implementation

- **Farmer and Rancher Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) at \$10 million**
- **Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production at \$25 million**

NASDA requests the fully authorized amount for the **Farmer and Rancher Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) at \$10 million**. Farm bankruptcies are at levels not seen since the Great Depression and the impacts of financial stress to rural mental health have been a concern of NASDA members. Studies have shown that specialized outreach and treatment techniques for farmers and ranchers work more effectively than traditional approaches and communities need the resources to deploy these tools.

The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production is newly created in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 and is authorized to receive \$25 million in funding to support its activities. The Office will consist of a director and advisory committee, which will oversee two pilot projects and grant administration.

### **Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)**

- **New Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program Administrative Cost Funding at \$7 million**

The Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program have been provided mandatory funding, but the **Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 provided new discretionary funding for the administration of MAP** so USDA can leverage the full potential of the mandatory funding.

### **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**

- **Fund State Food Safety and Inspection at \$67 million**

**NASDA urges the committee to increase funding for State Food Safety and Inspection programs to \$67 million to accommodate new participants.** This funding is critical for states that provide state meat inspections under a variety of programs regulated by FSIS. State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs were particularly hard-hit during the recent shutdown. New applicants to participate in this program are expected for FY20. **We support the White House budget request of \$67 million.**

### **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)**

- **Funding for NASS at \$194 million total**

**NASDA urges the committee to fund NASS at a minimum of \$194 million** as NASS data is vital to keeping agricultural markets stable, efficient, and fair by making available objective data to commodity market buyers and sellers. NASS provides objective, timely, accurate, and essential statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. This request includes a one-time data collection at \$14 million appropriations for urban agriculture statistics and data related to the new Office of Urban Agriculture. This data collection is important for better understanding the size and scope of urban agriculture in the U.S.

### **National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - Extension Activities**

- **Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) at \$10 million**

**NASDA encourages funding for the Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) at \$10 million.** This funding supports outreach and education to growers regarding FSMA's Produce Safety Rule, including the four regional Centers for Food Safety. The Centers develop and provide valuable resources tailored to produce production practices in their region. Two of the four regional centers were recently moved from FDA to NIFA due to scarce resources, however, NIFA did not receive a corresponding increase in funding and as a result, the Centers are now underfunded. **The 2018 Farm Bill specifically authorized \$10 million per year.** We thank the committee for its past support in increasing funding to this important program and feel with the advent of inspections the demand will be greater than ever.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) – Categorical Grants

- Increase Pesticide Program Implementation Grants
- Increase Pesticide Enforcement Grants

**NASDA urges the Committee to increase funding to Pesticides Program Implementation and Pesticide Enforcement grants.** We appreciate the committees' commitment to holding the line on funding these grants in the face of White House budget plans to cut funding. These grants have failed to keep up with inflation and state programs are beginning to experience consequences in this lack of funding. Originally enacted in FY93 at \$15.8 million, the pesticides enforcement line would need to rise to over \$27.5 million simply to match 1992 dollars. These programs are running so low on funds that some staff were furloughed during the last shutdown and states may reconsider their participation in the future if adequate funding is not provided.

### Conclusion

NASDA asks that you give our requests careful consideration as you work to fund the nation's agricultural policy priorities in fiscal year 2020. NASDA is a partner and co-regulator with federal agencies in the implementation of a host of food, agricultural and natural resources programs. Full-year funding is key to proper administration of these programs and securing the nation's food supply. NASDA stands ready to work with you and your staff to expeditiously pass the agriculture and interior appropriations bills in a timely fashion. Thank you for your consideration, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



**Barbara P. Glenn, Ph.D.**

*Chief Executive Officer*

Enclosure: NASDA Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Priorities Table

Cc: Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA), Chair, Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee  
Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), Ranking Member, Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee  
Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN), Chair, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee  
Representative David Joyce (R-OH), Ranking Member, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator John Hoeven (R-ND), Chair, Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Ranking Member, Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chair, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), Ranking Member, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee



## Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Priorities

### **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Food Safety System**

- Increase for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) implementation to \$60 million

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

#### **New Programs – Farm Bill Implementation**

- Farmer and Rancher Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) at \$10 million
- Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production at \$25 million

#### **Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)**

- New Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program Administrative Cost Funding at \$7 million

#### **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**

- Fully fund State Food Safety and Inspection at \$67 million

#### **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)**

- Fund NASS at a minimum of \$194 million

#### **National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**

- Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) at \$10 million

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

#### **Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)**

- State Pesticide Program Implementation Grants
- State Pesticide Enforcement Grants