



National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

AAPCO Annual Meeting Update, March 2026

Patrick Wade

Director of Public Policy

Overview for Today

NASDA Priorities in 2026

Federal Policy Update

- Farm Bill
- Appropriations
- EPA Activity

Make America Healthy Again

Other Topics

NASDA 2026 Policy Priorities

Where NASDA is uniquely positioned to lead

- Agricultural Labor Reform
- Animal Diseases & Traceability
- Farm Bill
- Pesticide Regulations
- Regional Food Procurement

Also committed to:

- Food Safety
- State Regulatory Harmonization
- Food Waste & Surplus Crop Utilization
- Plant Pests & Diseases

NASDA 2026 Policy Priorities - Pesticides

A predictable, enforceable, science- and risk-based pesticide regulatory framework is essential for maintaining agricultural productivity while minimizing adverse impacts on human health, the environment and endangered species. State primacy for pesticide regulatory enforcement is a cornerstone of that framework. NASDA encourages Congress and EPA to provide adequate resources to state lead agencies and strive to meaningfully implement their feedback on pesticide policy initiatives, particularly related to the enforcement of Endangered Species Act mitigation measures on pesticide labels.

NASDA 2026 Policy Priorities – ESA Implementation

- Additionally, there are three forums that will be critical for enforcement clarity:

ESA National Forum, February 2026

- Create roadmap for implementation, assign roles across stakeholders

NASDA Foundation PIRT ESA Workshop, May 2026

- Develop inspector checklist document

NASDA Foundation and USDA OPMP Cooperative Agreement

- Longer-term implementation, train-the-trainer

Farm Bill

Markup Scheduled for Tomorrow

Revisits many concepts from 118th Congress House Farm Bill

- Bill passed out of House with some bipartisan support, did not get floor vote
- Horticulture Title: Regulatory Reform

Future remains murky

- Path to full House vote not clear
- Senate much further behind

Farm Bill

Horticulture Title: Regulatory Reform

- Plant Biostimulant Act
- Coordination Improvements
- Interagency Working Group
- Extension of Registration Timelines
- Lawful Use of Authorized Pesticides
- Affirming Authority of States
- Uniformity of Pesticide Labeling Requirements

Farm Bill

Uniformity of Pesticide Labeling Requirements

- NASDA supportive – along with all regulatory reform provisions
- Key Provision:
 - *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or diminish the authority of States under subsections (a) and (c) of section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v).*

Appropriations Update

FY 2026 Appropriations Approved:

- USDA
 - \$13.8m for Pesticide Data Program
- EPA
 - Full funding for state pesticide enforcement:
 - Pesticides Enforcement: \$24.3m
 - Pesticide Program Implementation: \$13m

On to FY 2027 Appropriations Process

EPA Activities

Dicamba Registration

Qualified Conservation Programs

Make America Healthy Again



Final MAHA Strategy Recommendations for EPA:

- *EPA, partnering with food and agricultural stakeholders, will work to ensure that the public has awareness and confidence in EPA's pesticide robust review procedures and how that relates to the limiting of risk for users and the general public and informs continual improvement.*
- *Work to reform the approval process for the full range of chemical and biologic products to protect against weeds, pests, and disease to increase the timely availability of more innovative growing solutions for farmers.*

Make America Healthy Again – State-Level Resources

MAHA Resources

State MAHA Webinars	
Oct. 14, 2025: Farm Facing Inputs	<p>Oct. 30, 2025: Food ingredients, including UPFs, food additives and labeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FMI PowerPoint• 2026 Product Policy Forecasting Hub Map• CBA Enacted Legislation Map – 2025• CBA Product Policy Introduced Legislation Map – 2025
Nov. 18, 2025: PFAS	<p>Dec. 11, 2025: Rural Health Transformation Program – Bolstering the Role of Local Ag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NourishedRX RHT Presentation Slide Deck• NourishedRX RHT Brief

Make America Healthy Again – Other Topics

USDA

- Regenerative Agriculture Pilot Program
- Research & Development Priorities

FDA

- Pesticide tolerance enforcement
- Voluntary phase out of additives and ingredients
- GRAS Reform

Congress

- National standards for food and ingredient labeling

Other Topics – Creative NASDA Partnerships

In addition to PIRT and new OPMP Cooperative Agreement, NASDA Foundation administers:

- FDA cooperative agreement on produce safety training, hosts National Produce Safety Consortium, and other FSMA implementation efforts

Open to creative ideas on how NASDA or NASDA Foundation can support pesticide regulatory framework

Questions?

- **Patrick Wade**
- Director, Public Policy
 - Plant Agriculture & Pesticides
 - Rural Development & Financial Security
- (512) 788-4599
- patrick.wade@nasda.org