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NASDA Members Ask Congress for Farm Bill

At a meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) last week, the top state agriculture officials from around the country called on Congress to quickly enact a long-term Farm Bill. The swift enactment of a full, five-year Farm Bill will give America's farmers and ranchers more certainty for the future of their operations.

Like Congress, NASDA Members represent the full spectrum of agricultural production in the U.S. and come from both political parties. In calling for timely action by Congress, NASDA Members share a common voice on several [priorities](#) regarding the Farm Bill.

NASDA's President, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler, cited the significant challenges facing agricultural producers in his home state and across every region of the country.

"My colleagues from across the country and I agree: we need a Farm Bill and we need it now. With over 45% of our nation currently suffering from the effects of a disastrous drought, significant challenges in the dairy industry, and increasingly limited federal and state budget resources, our producers nationwide need more certainty about national agricultural policy," said Troxler.

During discussions on Capitol Hill, NASDA Members pressed Congress to pass a Farm Bill that includes a robust and flexible Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, continues support of the Market Access Program (MAP) and other trade development programs, delivers fully funded invasive species programs with enhanced federal-state coordination, provides locally driven and flexible conservation programs, advances agricultural research activities, and ensures a viable safety net for our nation's dairy producers.

In addition to the urgent need for a long-term Farm Bill, NASDA Members also discussed other issues affecting American agriculture during the 113th Congress. The role of states in leveraging federal program dollars to deliver state-federal cooperative programs, especially those regarding significant responsibilities resulting from the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), were particularly underscored.

NASDA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association which represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. To learn more about NASDA, please visit www.nasda.org.

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