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New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner

June 8, 2021

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (DAMF) to pay a membership fee to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Arlington, VA, Vendor #170305, in the amount of $5,100 to provide annual membership effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. 100% General Fund.

Funds are anticipated to be available pending budget approval for Fiscal Year 2022

02-18-18-180010-250000 Office of Commissioner
026-500251 Membership Fees $5,100.00

EXPLANATION

Dues support NASDA's work representing the state departments of agriculture in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policy and programs which support and promote American agriculture, while protecting consumers and the environment. For example, NASDA has played a leading role in efforts to ensure that FDA's rules for implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act are not unduly onerous and costly for New Hampshire's small and medium sized farms. NASDA provides vital educational and informational resources to department staff and facilitates communications with federal agencies regulating various aspects of agriculture. Commissioner Shawn Jasper serves as NASDA's designated contact.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

   NASDA was founded in 1915, and the NH Department of Agriculture (established 1913-14) has been a NASDA member for a very long time.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

   No.

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

50 states plus 4 US territories: Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food is the only NH state member of NASDA.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on outher criteria, etc.)

   Fees are based on state population and size of agricultural industry; NH dues are in the lowest category.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

   NASDA represents the state departments of agriculture in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policy and programs which support and promote American agriculture, while protecting consumers and the environment. For example, NASDA has played a leading role in efforts to ensure that FDA's rules for implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act are not unduly onerous and costly for New Hampshire's small and medium-sized farms. NASDA provides vital educational and informational resources to department staff, and facilitates communications with federal agencies regulating various aspects of agriculture. The regional sub-group of NASDA, the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture, serves a valuable role in bringing the leadership of the Northeastern state agriculture departments together to work for common interests to advance agriculture in our region.

6. Are training or education/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

   No additional costs charged for education or training materials or services. Services include weekly and more frequent communications as warranted of federal government and Congressional activity affecting farming and agriculture. One example of the many services and products provided by NASDA is the curricular materials for instruction in safe pesticide use, as well as tests for the full range of pesticide applicator licensing, provided by the NASDA Research Foundation in partnership with U.S. EPA. These study materials are available electronically at no cost. Individuals studying for the tests can purchase hard-copy publications.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

   Membership is not required for grants, but participation in informed and active NASDA membership keeps the department better aware of opportunities. As noted above, membership makes licensing exams available for the department to administer.

8. Is there any travel included with this memberhip fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.

   NASDA dues do not cover any travel expenses.

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

   Commissioner Shawn Jasper is directly involved as a voting member of NASDA. Division directors are also involved from time to time in subject areas related to their divisions.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

The department, and agriculture in the state, would suffer if we no longer participated in NASDA. We would be less well informed of important developments affecting agriculture, and would lose our voice in the organization which speaks for state departments of agriculture in Washington, DC. The controversy over implementation of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and its potential effects on small, medium-sized and diversified farms like we have in New Hampshire demonstrates the value of the NASDA organization. By working together the state departments of agriculture were able to get the FDA to make unprecedented visits to listen to farmers and other interested people, and to visit real farms in each region of the country—including New Hampshire. NASDA got FDA to agree to allow a second opportunity for public comments after it releases revised sets of rules. The commissioner and deputy commissioner of FDA told NASDA members at the February 2014 meeting in Washington that FDA has undertaken a reorganization and culture change as a result of working with state departments of agriculture. FDA will strive to adopt our state departments of agriculture regulatory philosophy of "Educate first, then enforce." State departments of agriculture increasingly find themselves in a role of mediating and facilitating communication and understanding between federal regulatory agencies and farm businesses in our states. The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food would be much less effective in that key role of supporting NH farms and agricultural businesses if it were not part of NASDA.

The Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food respectfully requests approval of this professional membership request.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner

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Arlington, VA 22203
Tel: 202-296-9680
www.nasda.org

INVOICE

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Attn: Shawn Jasper

May 12, 2021
FY22-052021-1727-0916

FY22 Membership Dues | July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Balance Due: $5,100.00

If paying by check:
Please make your check payable to "NASDA" and mail to:
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
Attn: Molly Quirk
4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22203

If paying by ACH:
Bank Name: Capital One
Address: 1680 Capital One Drive
McLean, VA 22102
Routing number: 255071981
Account#: 3746632699
** Please note our bank account has recently changed.*

Tax ID: 52-0845105

If you have any questions about this invoice or how this dues rate is determined, please contact Molly Quirk at molly.quirk@nasda.org.