

**New Hampshire**  
*Department of Agriculture,  
 Markets, and Food*

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner



June 12, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
 and the Honorable Council  
 State House  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF) to **retroactively** pay a membership fee to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Arlington, VA, (Vendor 347672) in the amount of \$5,400 to provide annual membership, effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. **100% General Funds.**

Funds are available in the following account for Fiscal Year 2027:

02-18-18-180010-25000000, <u>Office of Commissioner</u>	<b><u>FY 2027</u></b>
026-500251 Membership Fees	\$5,400

**EXPLANATION**

This request is submitted **retroactively** because the membership starts prior to the first Governor and Council meeting of Fiscal Year 2027 and the invoice was received after the closing deadline of May 29, 2026, for the June 17, 2026, Governor and Council Meeting. The 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 New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (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 other 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?

The state benefits significantly from participating in this membership. NASDA represents state departments of agriculture at the national level, ensuring our priorities and concerns are reflected in the development, implementation, and communication of sound agricultural policies and programs. This advocacy helps protect both New Hampshire's agricultural community and its consumers.

NASDA also plays an important role in reducing regulatory burdens. For example, it has been instrumental in ensuring that FDA's implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act does not create unnecessary costs or hardships for New Hampshire's small and medium-sized farms.

In addition, NASDA provides valuable educational and informational resources to department staff and helps facilitate communication with federal agencies that regulate various aspects of agriculture. This strengthens our ability to support the agricultural sector effectively and stay aligned with evolving federal standards.

The regional subgroup, the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture, further enhances these benefits by bringing together agricultural leaders from across the region. This

collaboration allows states to work collectively on shared priorities and advance agriculture across the Northeast.

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

Training, education, and research materials are included as part of the membership, and there are no additional costs for these resources. Members receive regular communications—weekly and more frequently when necessary—summarizing federal government and Congressional activity that affects farming and agriculture. These updates help keep staff informed and prepared to respond to emerging issues.

NASDA also provides valuable instructional materials through the NASDA Research Foundation in partnership with the U.S. EPA. This includes curricula for safe pesticide use and the full suite of study materials needed for pesticide applicator licensing tests. All of these materials are available electronically at no cost to the department or to individuals preparing for certification. While the electronic versions are free, individuals may choose to purchase hard-copy publications if they prefer printed study guides.

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 the state to receive federal grants, nor is it mandatory for participating in licensing or certification exams. However, active involvement in NASDA provides significant advantages. Through regular communication and policy updates, NASDA helps keep the department well-informed about federal opportunities, including grants that may benefit New Hampshire's agricultural sector.

In addition, as noted above, NASDA membership enables the department to access and administer the licensing exams and related materials provided through the NASDA Research Foundation. While the membership itself is not a formal requirement for these exams, participation ensures the department has full access to the resources, updates, and support needed to manage them effectively.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership 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 membership fees do not include or cover any travel expenses. Any travel undertaken in connection with NASDA activities—such as annual meetings, regional gatherings, or committee work—is funded separately by the department. The number of employees traveling, the destinations, and the purposes of each trip vary depending on the specific issues and events occurring in a given year.

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 with NASDA as the state's voting member. In addition, Assistant Commissioner Joshua Marshall and the division directors participate as needed on subject-matter issues relevant to their respective areas.

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

If the department were no longer a member of NASDA, both the agency and New Hampshire's agricultural community would experience significant negative impacts. Without membership, the department would be far less informed about major federal policy developments affecting agriculture and would lose its ability to help shape national discussions. NASDA serves as the primary collective voice of state agriculture departments in Washington, D.C., and stepping away would diminish New Hampshire's influence on policies that directly affect our farmers.

The experience surrounding implementation of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) illustrates the importance of NASDA's role. Through NASDA's coordinated efforts, state agriculture departments successfully persuaded the FDA to make unprecedented visits to farms across the country—including in New Hampshire—to better understand the practical impacts of its proposed rules. NASDA also secured a commitment from FDA to release revised rules and open a second public comment period. Senior FDA leadership has acknowledged that its reorganization and shift toward an "educate first, then enforce" regulatory philosophy were influenced by their work with state agriculture departments through NASDA.

Without NASDA membership, the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food would be far less effective in advocating for the needs of our farms, facilitating communication between federal regulators and local agricultural businesses, and ensuring that federal policies reflect on-the-ground realities. Our ability to support the state's agricultural industry would be substantially diminished.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn N. Jasper  
Commissioner



Date	6/08/2026
Invoice #	2026-0608-39
PO #	
Terms	

**Bill to:**

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food  
 C/O Shawn Jasper  
 25 Capitol Street  
 PO Box 2042  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03302

Please check box if address is incorrect or has changed, and indicate change(s) on reverse side.

<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$5,400.00</b>
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**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TOP PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

Item	Amount	Qty	Discount	Total
Membership Dues - FY 27 - July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027	\$5,400.00	1		\$5,400.00

**Tax ID:** 52-0845105

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,400.00</b>
<b>Payments/Credits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$5,400.00</b>

**To pay via check**, please make all checks payable to:  
 The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)  
 4350 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 810  
 Arlington, VA 22203

**To pay via ACH**, please reach out to Ellen Roth for those details  
 (ellen.roth@nasda.org).

Please direct any questions regarding this invoice to Ellen Roth at (ellen.roth@nasda.org).

Thanks for your support!

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 810  
 Arlington, VA 22203  
 (202) 296-9680  
 www.nasda.org