



**National Association of State Departments of Agriculture**

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May 14, 2019

Christopher Logue, President, Eastern Plant Board  
New York Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

Mr. Logue,

Thank you for sharing your perspectives on this important issue. NASDA's mission is to work closely on policy and other issues with our counter parts at the federal level, as well as our affiliates.

NASDA has a strong relationship with the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and we understand Secretary Perdue's focus on improving the efficiency and oversight of federal-state cooperative agreements, as necessary to assure that these agreements are sound and appropriately being administered and utilized. However, we also share your concern regarding the significant negative impact of the new federal cooperative agreement approval process.

NASDA has been working closely with USDA officials to voice our concerns, to identify the negative impacts on state departments of Agriculture and to identify solutions going forward. Specifically, I met with Deputy Secretary Censky, and we requested consideration of a new approach. Because of the meeting, during the next NASDA-USDA conference call meeting, USDA announced a series of exemptions to the process, intended to alleviate many of the negative impacts.

Please let **Aline DeLucia, Senior Director, Public Policy** ([aline.delucia@nasda.org](mailto:aline.delucia@nasda.org)) know about delays in executing any state agreements and the specific impact associated with the delay. We are continuing to work with USDA to assure timely funding of cooperative agreements. State departments of Agriculture must have a viable partnership and business platform for cooperative agreements, which facilitates our mission – critical programs. Thank you again for your outreach to NASDA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Jeff Witte". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Jeff Witte, President**  
**Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture**