



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
Governor

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205  
agriculture.arkansas.gov  
(501) 225-1598

Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

[Arkansas Department of Agriculture](#)

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**CONTACT:** Ayden Massey, (501) 813-6012

[ayden.massey@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:ayden.massey@agriculture.arkansas.gov)

## **Arkansas Department of Agriculture Leadership Recognized at National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** –This week, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) held its annual meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming where Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward was elected vice president for 2023-2024.

“It is a great honor to be elected as vice president of NASDA,” said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “I am proud to represent Arkansas within the organization and look forward to continued collaboration with our nation’s states and territories to support U.S. agriculture.”

At the meeting, recipients of the 2023 NASDA Honor Awards were announced. Arkansas Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Cynthia Edwards received the Douglass-Irvin Administration Award. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions within a state agency resulting in improved efficiency and impact. Edwards has served as Deputy Secretary since 2011.

NASDA, founded in 1916, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association that represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. NASDA grows and enhances American agriculture through policy, partnerships, and public engagement.

NASDA is governed by a 10-member board of directors which includes executive committee members who serve as officers of the association. Officers for the upcoming year are Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma, President; Wes Ward, Arkansas, Vice President; Amanda Beal, Maine, Second Vice President; and Derek Sandison, Washington, Secretary-Treasurer.

Learn more about NASDA at [nasda.org/](https://nasda.org/).

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while conserving natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [agriculture.arkansas.gov/](https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/). The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.