



# 2024 NASDA Honor Award Guidelines

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Applications Due August 16

## About

Since 1972, NASDA has conducted the annual honor awards program to recognize the exemplary work of employees of state departments of agriculture and showcase their outstanding work on behalf of NASDA members.

## Applicant Requirements

This program was created to give recognition to those outstanding professionals working on behalf of members. Each award has its own specific eligibility criteria, which can be found below. Commissioners, secretaries and directors of agriculture are not eligible for a NASDA Honor Award.

## Douglass - Irvin Administration Award

The purpose of the Douglass - Irvin Administration Award is to recognize an outstanding contributor within a state agency resulting in improved administrative efficiency and impact. The nominee must be an employee of a state department of agriculture who works in administration, operations, regulatory or policy areas. The recipient will be chosen from among the candidates whose work contributed to successful outcomes. Eligible nominators include any supervisor or peer in the state agency that is familiar with the nominee's service. Individuals may self-nominate.

Selection of the award winner is based on achievements within the last year or the result of cumulative years in their area of work within administration, operations, regulatory or policy functions. The recipient will have administered their duties while exhibiting superior performance and achieving major contributions to improved efficiency and impact as a member of their team.



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## Materials Required for Submission:

- A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's contribution to the state agency resulting in improved efficiency and impact.
- A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

*The Douglass-Irvin Administration Award was named for West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gus Douglass, and Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Tommy Irvin. Commissioner Douglass administered the West Virginia Department of Agriculture from 1965 to 1989 and again from 1993 to 2013. He is the longest-serving agriculture commissioner in U.S. history. Commissioner Irvin administered the Georgia Department of Agriculture from 1969 to 2011. He is the longest consecutive-serving agriculture commissioner in U.S. history.*

## Communications Award

The Communications Award recognizes an outstanding contributor in media and public communications within the state agency resulting in improved understanding of agriculture and agricultural programs. The award recipient must be an employee of a state department of agriculture whose job responsibility is in the area of communications. The recipient will be chosen from among the candidates whose work has contributed to successful communication outcomes. Eligible nominators include any peer in the state agency who is familiar with the nominee's service or individuals may self nominate.

Selection of the award winner is based on achievements within the last year, or cumulative over several years, in the communications area of work within a state department of agriculture including, but not limited to, the following: print media, radio, television, social media, video production, blogging and graphic design. The recipient will have administered his or her duties while exhibiting superior performance and achieving major contributions as a communications officer or other position with similar duties.



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## Materials Required for Submission:

- A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's contribution in communications for the state agency resulting in improved understanding of the state agency's mission and role in the industry.
- A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

## James A. Graham Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture

The purpose of the James A. Graham Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture is to recognize an outstanding contributor to agricultural producers in their state. The award recipient must be an employee of a state department of agriculture whose job provides direct or indirect service to agricultural producers. The recipient will be chosen from among the candidates whose work has contributed to successful outcomes. Eligible nominators include any peer in the state agency who is familiar with the nominee's service or individuals may self nominate.

Selection of the award winner is based on achievements within the last year, or cumulative over several years within the state department of agriculture. The recipient will have administered his or her duties while exhibiting superior performance and achieving major contributions to agricultural producers locally or nationally.

*This award is named in honor of North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture James Allen Graham. Serving from 1964 to 2001, Graham was the longest serving agriculture commissioner in the state's history. During his years as agriculture commissioner, Jim Graham secured funding for a number of outstanding programs and facilities for agriculture and consumer services. He developed a network of five state-owned farmers markets, three agricultural centers and seven animal disease diagnostic laboratories across the state.*



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## Materials Required for Submission:

- A letter of support for the nomination containing no more than 1500 words. The letter should establish the nature and importance of the nominee's contribution in the state, region or nation which resulted in improved service to the agricultural producers.
- A brief citation regarding the nominee of no more than 300 words suitable for public posting.

## NASDA Public-Private Partnership Award

The purpose of the NASDA Public-Private Partnership Award is to recognize a NASDA Partner's Program organization that has collaborated with a state to implement a program, project or service that positively impacts the state or nation. Each NASDA member is invited to nominate one Partner Program organization for work in their state that includes a significant, valuable public benefit, service or resource that positively impacts the state. Nominated projects must involve collaboration and shared responsibility between state government and a Partners Program organization. Nominated partnerships should focus on areas of priority for NASDA members, in the areas of agriculture, food and the environment.

Selection from among the eligible candidates will be evaluated on benefits to state, cost savings to the state and/or added value and collaboration.

## Materials Required for Submission:

- A letter of nomination from a NASDA member including an addendum (no more than three pages) that provides an overview and background of the partnership; explains the respective roles of the organization and state government; describes the goals of the partnership and measures of success; and describes the benefits to the state.
- Optional: Supporting materials, such as letters of support, press releases and/or testimonials.