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**Overview/Program Updates**

- **Plant Pathology**

- A significant amount of potato tubers produced in Nevada are exported to Mexico annually, but the export of agricultural commodities to foreign countries requires phytosanitary clearance. On December 6, 2021, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) signed an Operational Work Plan (OWP) with Mexico's SENASICA to allow the exportation of potatoes from the United States. The OWP requires each potato-producing state to survey 5 pathogens identified by Mexico as quarantine pests and provide data to the USDA. Plant Pathology Lab has completed the 2022 Potato-to-Mexico survey and uploaded official data to the USDA designated database, which satisfies one of the key phytosanitary requirements for the export of Nevada potatoes to Mexico. There were no positive detections found.
- Nursery inspections and lab testing for introduced diseases is the best way to safeguard Nevada agriculture and environments from dangerous plant diseases and pests. A leaf spot disease caused by the fungus *Entomosporium maculatum* was first detected in Nevada from multiple photinia plants in nurseries. All infected plants were destroyed after a laboratory confirmation of the disease.
- USDA will be releasing a Pest Risk Assessment on Tomato Brown-Rugose Fruit virus and will be opening comment on the potential de-regulation of this virus which is a particular concern for tomato and pepper producers. This virus is highly infectious and has resulted in federal orders imposing restrictions on imports of tomato and pepper seed lots, transplants, and fruit from countries where the virus exists.

- **Seed**

- The 7th Annual Nevada Native Seed Forum was held on April 11th in Elko, NV. Participants included both state and federal agents, local land managers, researchers, Non-Government Organizations, and private growers. The Forum enabled participants to discuss and learn about the complexities of the native seed industry, especially as it relates to production.
- The State Seed Laboratory is integrating a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), administered through Accelerated Technology Laboratories (ATL). The lab is scheduled to go live with the initial version of the LIMS in the Summer of 2023.
- In the Spring of 2023, a Request for Applications was made available for producers to apply for seed from the Foundation Seed Program that will be used to support the growth of native seed production in Nevada for site restoration and market diversification. One successful applicant was selected in March to receive seed for planting. There are currently 3 active growers in the Foundation Seed Program.
- 2022 saw an increase in Source Identification inspections with 123 total sites inspected for the year. This compares to 90 inspections completed in 2021 and furthers opportunity for seed availability of species for ecosystem-based restoration work.

- **Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule**
  - NDA’s adoption of U.S. EPA’s revised Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule (40 CFR Part 171):
  - In lieu of requiring all Nevada Restricted Use Products (RUP) certified applicators to retake the examination to learn about the updated revisions, NDA decided to facilitate an online training that will inform industry of the updated requirements. The Pesticide Program Manager has developed a power point presentation which includes quiz questions. This presentation will be recorded for applicators to take before December 31, 2023. Upon passing, the applicators will receive a certificate of completion and the EPA will be informed that they have been updated on the revisions.
- **Groundwater Monitoring Program**
  - The NDA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) work cooperatively to develop and maintain a network to monitor the occurrence of pesticides in water resources in Nevada. This monitoring network serves as an early warning system for potential effects of pesticide applications and other activities on aquatic resources in Nevada. This year, staff plans to use the funds to complete an evaluation of the NDA chemistry lab. To accomplish this, NDA and USGS have decided to collect pesticides samples from locations with a history of pesticide detections. One sample will be sent to the NDA lab, while the other will be sent to the National Water Quality Lab (NWQL). This will be done as a cost share of grant and fee funds.

### **Crops Program Updates**

- **Export/ Shipping Point**
  - This fiscal year, 330 federal and state phytosanitary certificates were issued allowing for the export of 58,047,234 pounds of varying commodities, including hay, coffee, lumber, spices, teas, mushroom spawn, and onions. During the same time in FY2022, 670 state and federal phytosanitary certificates, totaling 98,568,239 pounds, were issued.
  - Other items certified for export, that are not measured by weight, but by count totaled 18,602, and included nursery stock, farm equipment, and teas.
  - The onion shipping season typically runs September through mid-April. As of September 6, 2022, through April 25, 2023, 6.38 million pounds of onions have been certified with 432 certificates issued. This is a slight decline from SFY22 during the same time, which reports 630 certificates issued for 7.97 million pounds of onions. The decrease is likely due to an increased demand for domestic shipments, an unusually harsh winter causing difficulties moving freight, and industry challenges in securing shipping containers.

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The table below shows the monthly breakdown of onions exported in FY2022 compared to FY2023.

<b>Month</b>	<b>2022 Pounds Shipped Outside USA</b>	<b>2023 Pounds Shipped Outside USA</b>
<b>July</b>	0	0
<b>August</b>	798,914	0
<b>September</b>	1,568,985	978,160
<b>October</b>	908,155	993,300
<b>November</b>	1,116,170	1,091,010
<b>December</b>	1,240,655	1,054,225
<b>January</b>	1,119,880	1,138,964
<b>February</b>	631,360	485,800
<b>March</b>	602,320	393,510
<b>April</b>		249,250

*\*FY23 data through April 25, 2023*

Phytosanitary Certificate Inspections FY2023 year to date have remained similar to FY2022, as shown in the table below.

<b>Month</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>
<b>July</b>	43	21
<b>August</b>	53	23
<b>September</b>	90	52
<b>October</b>	62	54
<b>November</b>	99	49
<b>December</b>	65	21
<b>January</b>	84	23
<b>February</b>	77	26
<b>March</b>	51	31
<b>April</b>	46	34
<b>May</b>	32	
<b>June</b>	41	

*\*FY23 data accurate through April 25, 2023*

- **Producer Certificate and Produce Safety**
  - For FY2023 staff have conducted 11 training courses with a total of 146 individuals being trained. The training has included the following:
    - 3 basic produce safety trainings to producers in the state.
    - Staff also successfully held a Produce Safety Alliance Grower training for 6 farms. This training is required for all growers who are required to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (FSMA PSR).
    - The Produce Safety Team successfully completed a series of trainings called Food Safety Friday that were held virtually November through April targeted to Nevada's small farms.
    - Food safety training in Spanish was requested and provided for farm workers in Southern Nevada.
    - Outreach and resources were provided for the Nevada Women's Farm 2 Food Accelerator meeting covering the Producer Certificate Program, food safety resources including technical assistance. Resources can be found on the NDA YouTube channel.
    - Staff conducted 16 on-farm and remote technical assistance visits/meetings with producers throughout the state.
  
- **Hemp**
  - In 2022, the NDA conducted a total of 21 hemp sample inspections and 8 site compliance inspections. The 2022 hemp inspection season yielded 77 hemp samples, of which 3 (4.2%) samples exceeded the acceptable THC threshold. This is an improvement over last season when 15% of samples were noncompliant. As of May 15, 2023, the NDA has conducted a total of 4 hemp sampling inspections and 1 site compliance inspection. Most growers have not started harvesting for 2023.
  - NDA coordinated with the Nevada Farm Service Agency (FSA) to ensure that growers completed their crop reporting through FSA. This is a federal requirement and was a significant compliance issue in 2022. There were concerns that producers were struggling in completing the reporting template and as a result the NDA facilitated meetings with USDA Hemp Officials and the Nevada FSA to evaluate challenges observed, federal requirements, and potential solutions. NDA has assisted with communicating the request for additional data to Nevada Hemp Growers that will help fill in reporting gaps and meet federal requirements.
  - The following data reflects hemp samples collected by the NDA and tested for federal compliance, above compliance, and approved crop disposals of non-compliant crops between January 1, 2021, and May 15, 2023.

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Year over year Samples Tested, Non-Compliant Samples, and Disposals.

State of Nevada Statistics	Samples
2021 Total Samples Collected =	104
2021 Non-Compliant Samples =	16
2021 Approved Crop Disposals =	8
2021 Approved Crop Remediation =	0
2022 Total Samples Collected =	72
2022 Non-Compliant Samples =	3
2022 Approved Crop Disposals =	1
2022 Approved Crop Remediation =	0
2023 Total Samples Collected =	8
2023 Non-Compliant Samples =	1
2023 Approved Crop Disposals =	0
2023 Approved Crop Remediation =	1

Chemistry samples analyses summary.

**Total Samples Analyzed**

	FY21	FY22	FY23 (7/1/22 – 5/17/23)
<b>Ground/Surface Water (Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program)</b>	69	73	56
<b>HEMP (Percentage THC Analysis)</b>	114	118	80
<b>Pesticide Formulation / Use Dilution</b>	132	98	81
<b>Pesticide Residue (EPA Enforcement)</b>	22	21	23

- **Noxious Weeds**
  - Staff attended the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) strategic meeting in Utah in March 2023. This is a tool used for reporting and tracking noxious weed infestations. The goal of this meeting was to discuss how other agencies and states are utilizing EDDMapS and focus on how we can make features more useful for the public and state/federal partners including the website, reporting app and overall data.
    - EDDMapS report verifications 6,996
  - Nevada Department of Transportation collaboration in reviewing noxious weeds management plans to mitigate the spread of noxious weeds.
    - NDOT weed plans reviewed 41
    - NDOT weed plans approved 48
    - NDOT project sites visited 35
  - Noxious Weed free certifications issued:
    - Weed free certificates 2
    - Weed free inspections:
      - Forage 18
      - Gravel 36
      - Mulch 2
  - NDA is working with federal and state partners to coordinate a weed biological control meeting in July. The goal of this meeting is to revisit the state's weed biological control plan, effectiveness, and opportunities.
    - Biocontrol Monitoring 46
    - Biocontrol Releases 20
  - Outreach and education.
    - NDA staff continue to work with partners and provide information on the noxious weed program to the general public, partnering agencies and professionals performing work to address invasive plants and noxious weed species. Recent events have included Ely winter weeds, Nevada Landscape Association, National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), and presentations to Washoe county parks, Fallon Tribes, Hawthorne public utilities, weed warriors in collaboration with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE), and presentations to HOA's and recreation clubs.
  - Ventenata mini campaign.
    - NDA has contributed funding to coordinate with North American Invasive Species Management (NAISMA), Montana, and Colorado for outreach efforts and to raise awareness of this invasive annual grass. NAISMA plans to add the species to their list of prohibited species in their weed free certification program. NDA added this species to the Category A noxious weed species list in 2018.

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- **Entomology**

<b>2023Activity</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Palm Weevil Commodities</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Palm pest survey</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Asian Defoliator Surveys</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Khapra Beetle Surveys</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CAPS Infrastructure</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CAPS Exotic Wood Borer</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CAPS Gypsy Moth</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CAPS Pine Shoot Beetle</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CAPS Imported Fire Ant</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Traps placed/surveyed</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Identification Specimens</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Identification Emails</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Identifications Text</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Identification Phone</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>2843</b>
<b>Treatments</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Japanese Beetle Survey</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>European Corn Bore survey</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>State quarantine survey</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>66775</b>
<b>Collection processing</b>	<b>17782</b>
<b>Honeybee Surveys</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>General collection/collecting</b>	<b>0</b>

- The entomology program in cooperation with USDA PPQ conducted four public meetings on the Mormon cricket and grasshopper program.
- The Entomologist received an Award of Commendation for contributions to the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.