

August 31, 2023 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



Division Overview

- **Pending matters of significance**
 - Livestock Inspection Program
 - Rebuilding in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan continues to progress.
 - Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571, Diseased Animals
 - Staff continue to revise and edit the current proposed language of NAC 571 for a future in person/virtual workshop and later hearing.
 - The vacant Division of Animal Industry Administrator position has been filled. Chad Sestanovich started on July 31, 2023, and will be based out of the Elko office.
 - During the 2023 Legislative Session the Division of Animal Industry was approved for a new Deputy Administrator position. This position is approved for recruitment on October 1, 2023.
 - Virginia Range Feral/Estray (VRE) Horse Project Manager, Jim Wheeler, was hired to oversee the VRE program, compile program data, manage fencing projects, and ensure cooperative agreement compliance.
- **Partnership activities**
 - USDA-APHIS
 - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - The NDA continues to utilize 2023 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA will renew the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2023 for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. Calls between May 1, 2023 to current are reported to be 107.
 - WHC reports 5 horses versus vehicle crashes from May 2023 to current. There were 42 crashes reported in 2023, 27 in 2021, and 46 reported in 2020.
 - Three horses have been relocated from various urban areas to less urban/populated areas of the Virginia Range.
 - WHC continues to work on;
 - Fencing projects to prevent horses from straying outside the boundaries of the Virginia Range area in Fernley.
 - Diversionary feeding in NDA approved locations to draw horses away from highways and urban areas.
 - American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
 - The NDA and AWHC entered into a fifth-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement with a begin date of April 28, 2023, and is valid until April 28, 2024. The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC covering

the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports during the timeframe of May 1, 2023 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 313 individual mares with 319 doses, (72 doses given as a primer and 247 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,507 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.

- The previous aerial survey done by the NDA in coordination with the BLM in March of 2022 indicated an estimated population of 3,567 horses.
 - NDA's historical data of VRE horse population:
 - 1997: 413
 - 2002: 1,274
 - 2008: 1,448
 - 2014: 1,959
 - 2018: 2,951
 - 2022: 3,567

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 276 registered and active accounts from May 1, 2023 to current.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - The NDA's Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during the time frame of May 1, 2023 to current:
 - 30 livestock investigations requiring 138.5 staff hours;
 - 87 staff hours of follow up investigations;
 - 3 animal health investigations requiring 3 staff hours;
 - 1 animal quarantine requiring 8 staff hours;
 - 317 traffic stops, 6 transit inspections, and 25 check sites with 2 violations totaling 8 staff hours;
 - 283 brand inspections requiring 319.85 staff hours;
 - 26 strays, 37 estrays, and 7 VRE responses requiring 14.5 staff hours;
 - 8 livestock in roadway responses, 2 vehicle crashes with livestock, 8 crashes (traffic);
 - 23 highway kills;
 - 4 livestock railroad kills;
 - 5,200 administrative staff hours;
 - 63 agency assists;
 - 589 staff training hours (148 instructed, 408 received);
 - 1,919 phone calls;
 - 48 Event/Public Auction Checks; 166 contacts made;
 - 52.4 staff hours for equipment maintenance;

August 31, 2023 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



- 27 warnings issued (16 livestock/brand and 10 animal health);
- 1 Misdemeanor Citation issued.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed more than 2,874 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 70,245 animals, including the public livestock auctions from May 1, 2023 to current.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 2,464 hours and traveled 50,084 miles performing brand inspections from May 1, 2023 to current.
 - Division staff renewed 44 brands, approved 45 new brand applications, 22 temporary brand applications and transferred 30 brands. Currently, 23 pending brand applications.
 - 4,257 brand renewal notices were delivered to registered brand owners via email and hard copy in the beginning of November 2022. Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,177 active Nevada brands and 601 expired brands.
 - Received 2,143 livestock assessment filings for 2023.
 - Issued 2,269 livestock movement permits.
 - 41 agricultural licenses from May 1, 2023 to current have been issued.
 - 2023 Livestock Assessment notices were delivered to livestock owners the first week of June.
 - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 40 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses from May 1, 2023 to current.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC)
 - PARC staff have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout the time of May 1, 2023 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes European starlings 52%, ravens 35%, coyotes 12%. The remaining 1% was comprised of mountain lions and striped skunks.
 - Staff provided public outreach to 196 individuals or businesses from May 1, 2023 to current. Staff took no samples for testing for disease of predatory animals during this time.
 - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 38 lambs, 2 adult sheep, 2 goats, and 2 calves that were killed during the reporting period.
 - Recruitments for one Field Assistant II position in Fallon and one Field Assistant II position in Elko are in the recruitment process.
- Veterinary Medical Service
 - In June Dr. Mundschenk attended the Western States Livestock Health Association (WSLHA) meeting in Cody, Wyoming in conjunction with the National Association of State Meat and Food Inspection Directors. The WSLHA is a district meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). Dr. Mundschenk represents the Western States on the executive board of USAHA. The WSLHA meeting topics included:

August 31, 2023 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



- Equine disease risks on dude ranches and outfitters including the need for annual testing of these horses.
- Brucellosis and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance on elk feeding grounds.
- Presentation by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) import/export on the process of disease recognition in foreign counties importing into the US.
- Presentation on traceability and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag manufacture roundtable.
- Discussion on Trichomoniasis in the western US and how to make sure labs are doing the test correctly. There is no oversight on this testing as USDA does not regulate. A Proposal to put forth a resolution with American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics (AAVLD) to just focus on the adoption of a standardized testing protocol will be brought up at USAHA/AAVLD meeting in October.
- Discussion on Brucellosis in cattle had the following discussion and a proposal to:
 - Remove vaccination requirement for all states without infected wildlife.
 - Eliminate vaccination requirement in all low-risk counties in Greater Yellowstone (GYA) states.
 - Focus on surveillance at slaughter and movement testing strategies to replace mandatory programs. There is understanding that this will require many states to work on statute or administrative rule changes to make this happen.
- USDA discussion on the Farm Bill and *National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP)* grants and next steps on secure beef and milk plans as well as what movement would look like on public lands during a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak.
 - Dr. Sifford, Chief Veterinary Officer, (CVO) from USDA-APHIS gave an update on budget, vaccine bank, trade and **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**, African Swine Fever (ASF) preparation and work in Puerto Rico to do early detection with all the illegal boat landings. Also, discussion on where we are with the Animal Disease Traceability rule after comment period as well as the Tuberculosis (TB) rule and brucellosis rule (should be published late this year) updates.
 - In the Las Vegas area NDA quarantined a premise for a neurologic horse with Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) a very contagious disease of horses and can be spread by horse-to-horse contact. No other horses on the facility had any signs and the quarantine was lifted. The horse improved with treatment at a clinic in Utah.

August 31, 2023 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



- On June 6th, the State Veterinarian, Veterinary Diagnostician, and NDA Agricultural Police Officers assisted Lyon County Sheriff's Office and Animal Control with the investigation and depopulation of 155 impounded fighting birds. An additional 59 birds were found deceased on the site. NDA sampled approximately 15% of the birds for Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease. All sample results returned negative.
- From May-July 2023, the State Veterinarian and the Veterinary Diagnostician sampled 55 chickens for AI and Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) testing.
- Diagnosed Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) in horses in White Pine County. Monitoring and quarantine put in place. VSV is a vector transmitted virus that causes blisters where the insect bites the livestock, and we often get oral lesions when the horse licks the lips and get the virus on the tongue.
- The NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. The most updated information indicates that NDA staff have collected 138 sheep heads and 31 goat heads through the month of May 2023. NDA has met the yearly requirement for goats and is still actively collecting sheep to meet that requirement.
- In May and June 2023, 685 sheep and 885 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie ID compliance. Director Goicoechea, the Veterinary Diagnostician and NDA Livestock Inspector performed Scrapie livestock inspections in Fallon and Reno at the Nevada Junior Livestock (NJLS) during this period.
- NDA distributed 507 free EID tags to Nevada cattle producers between May-July 2023.
- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) closed out FY23 with 10,271 procedures accounting for 29,826 tests. For FY 2024, the ADL performed 2,241 procedures accounting for 4,174 tests and/or services to date.
- Since May 2023, the ADL performed West Nile Virus (WNV), St Louis encephalitis (SLE) and Western equine encephalitis (WEE) surveillance testing on 697 pools consisting of 23,141 mosquitoes and 2 avian specimens submitted by partnering vector and public health agencies. All pools were negative. The Southern Nevada Health Department has reported 3 WNV positive pools of mosquitoes to date.
- The ADL continues to provide non-human rabies surveillance for the state of Nevada. For the current calendar year, there have been 205 cases, and 7 positive bats, found in Clark County, Carson City and White Pine County.
- The NDA continues to support the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health's (NDPBH) on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) grant. This grant funds the Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture and will support ongoing efforts to improve education on zoonotic diseases specifically among youth who are actively involved with or

August 31, 2023 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



- around livestock such as sheep, beef, chickens, or pigs.
- In June 2023, the ADL was inspected by the USDA for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing. No deficiencies were noted. In July 2023, the ADL successfully passed EIA Proficiency Testing (PT) issued by the USDA – National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).
- In May 2023, ADL technical staff members successfully completed PT in rabies testing through the Wisconsin State of Laboratory Hygiene Proficiency Testing.
- In June 2023, the ADL technical staff members successfully completed PT related to Bacteriology and Parasitology issued by the Veterinary Laboratory Association™ Quality Assurance Program.
- In June 2023, the ADL Supervisor successfully completed the Nevada Certified Contract Manager (CCM) course to support future Animal Industry contracting.
- The ADL and other laboratories at the NDA continue to work on a comprehensive build for a new laboratory information management system (LIMS). The vendor is currently working with the NDA laboratories and their subject matter experts to ensure a smooth transition.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - Staff member attended the National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials Conference in Madison, Wisconsin.
 - Staff member attended a Dairy Farm Inspection and Sanitation course in Helena, Montana.
 - Staff members attended an in-house Dairy Marketing and Sanitation auditing training course.
 - Staff member attended the Nevada Environmental Health Association / Nevada Food Safety Task Force conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.
 - Inspection staff conducted 11 reinspections, 22 dairy farm inspections, and 23 reinspections.
 - 13 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests were conducted.
 - 14 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
 - 2 complaints were received and investigated.
 - Inspectors conducted 1 single service facility inspection.
 - Inspection staff have collected 121 milk samples.
 - Inspection staff evaluated and 8 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.
 - Inspection staff conducted 3 plant/farm ratings.
 - Inspection staff completed 11 milk tank truck inspections.
 - 118 staff training hours.
 - 19 consumer inquiries were investigated.
 - Inspection staff completed 9 Food Safety Plan reviews and 1 label review.
 - Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 77 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
 - Audit reviews have yielded \$1,986.30 in remittances due and late fees of

August 31, 2023 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



- \$932.28 collected.
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 248 licensee accounts.
- The Dairy Outreach Program has participated in 1 educational event with Moolissa the Cow.