
Division Overview

- **Pending matters of significance**
 - Livestock Inspection Program
 - Rebuilding continues in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan.
 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at the public livestock auctions.
 - Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571
 - Staff are continuing revisions and editing the current proposed language for future in person/virtual workshop and later hearing.
 - The Las Vegas Agriculture Police Officer (APO) position is in the beginning process of recruitment.
 - During the 2023 Legislative Session the Division of Animal Industry was approved for a new Deputy Administrator position. This position was filled January 8, 2024, by Will Dawson, and he is based out of the Sparks office.
- **Partnership activities**
 - United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
 - Nevada Department of Agriculture (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.
 - NDA continues to utilize a subaward, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement under the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH). Funding covers arboviral activities for the state.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in September 2023 for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. From November 1, 2023, to current there have been 1,734 calls received.
 - WHC continues to perform diversionary feeding in only NDA approved locations to draw horses away from highways and urban areas.
 - WHC reports 14 horse versus vehicle crashes from November 2023 to current. There were 42 crashes reported in 2023, 27 in 2021, and 46 reported in 2020.
 - Relocations from November 1 to current: 7 horses have been

relocated from various urban areas of the Virginia Range. These horses were relocated to less urban/populated areas of the Virginia Range.

- 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 November 1, 2023, to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 367 individual mares with 369 doses, (68 doses given as a primer and 301 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,465 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.
- 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 146 registered and active accounts from November 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 November 1, 2023 to February 9, 2024;
 - 35 livestock investigations requiring 70 staff hours;
 - 37 staff hours of follow-up investigations;
 - 16 Public Service Responses;
 - 63 traffic stops;
 - 3 transit inspections;
 - 3 check sites;
 - 874 brand inspections requiring 369 staff hours;
 - 8 strays;
 - 4 estrays;
 - 6 VRE responses requiring 16 staff hours;
 - 4 livestock in roadway responses;
 - 1 crash (traffic);
 - 3 highway kills;
 - 316 administrative staff hours;
 - 16 agency assists;

- 54 staff training hours;
 - 709 phone calls;
 - 105 contacts made;
 - 20 staff hours for equipment maintenance;
 - 40 warnings;
 - 2 misdemeanor citations issued.
- **Livestock Identification**
 - Staff have completed more than 3,000 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 119,678 animals, including the public livestock auctions from November 19, 2023 to current.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 3,035 hours and traveled 65,162 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 68 brands, approved 85 new brand applications, 13 temporary brand applications and transferred 22 brands. Currently, there are 0 pending brand applications.
 - Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,288 active Nevada brands and 448 expired brands.
 - Received 2,708 livestock assessment filings for 2023.
 - 1,695 livestock movement permits have been issued in 2024.
 - 7 agricultural licenses from November 1, 2023 to current have been issued.
 - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 38 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses from November 1, 2023 to current.
 - Throughout this quarter, NDA staff have continued attending meetings with federal, state, county, and city agencies to collaboratively identify areas of the highest importance which require the installation of fencing to promote and protect public safety.
 - NDA has identified three existing contracted vendors that can allow immediate fencing requirements to be placed out for bid with only slight changes to existing contracts once all stakeholders have approved.
 - All funding for fencing is sourced from the NDA Feral Horse Management Project.
- **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 November 1, 2023 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes European starlings 99% and the remaining 1% was comprised of coyotes, ravens, feral pigeons, beavers, mountain lions and striped skunks.
 - Staff provided public outreach to 451 individuals or businesses from November 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 400,000 lbs. of milk; 4 tons of feed; 7 cows; 32 lambs; 30 adult sheep, 5 adult goats, 77 kid

goats, 154 chickens, 15 farm ducks and 42 calves that were killed during the reporting period.

- Recruitments for 1 Field Assistant II position in Fallon is in the process of being filled.
- **Veterinary Medical Service**
 - In November the State Veterinarian attended the Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) annual meeting in Winnemucca, NV.
 - State Veterinarian also visited with the Quad-County Healthcare Coalition on agroterrorism and public health in November.
 - In January, in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), the State Veterinarian presented at the Cattleman's Updates in Fallon, Ely, Elko and Paradise Valley.
 - Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Veterinary Shortage Nominations were submitted and the 2024 veterinary shortage situations are now available. Nevada has been nominated for five needs areas. VMLRP awardees commit to providing at least three years of animal veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area in return for payments of up to \$25,000 of student loan debt per year, with a maximum of \$75,000 for a three-year contract. VMLRP awardees are eligible to reapply to continue to serve their originally awarded shortage situation area in the last year of their contract or one year after their contract ends.
 - 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 34 sheep heads for the months of October to December 2023. NDA has met the yearly requirement for scrapie testing goats and sheep for the federal fiscal year which ended on September 30, 2023, to maintain our Scrapie Consistent State status.
 - The State Veterinarian is working with garbage feeders to make sure they are in compliance with state and federal regulations.
 - Herds and fence line contacts under hold orders for Trichomoniasis are continuing to test and remove any positive bulls to come off quarantine. NDA distributed 12,526 free Electronic Identification Device (EID) tags to Nevada cattle producers between October 1st to February 8, 2024.
 - NDA's Veterinarian Diagnostician attended the Woolgrower's meeting in November 2023 and updated members about the scrapie program.
 - NDA's Veterinarian Diagnostician assisted USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) with performing Tuberculosis Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (TB CCT) testing on both a goat and cattle herd. All results were negative.
 - In December there was one case of Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) associated with a horse from Wyoming here for the Junior World Finals in Las Vegas. The horse was quarantined at the veterinary clinic and responded to therapy and was able to return home after testing negative for the disease. No other horses were affected due to quick response to move this

horse out of the population and set up daily temperature monitoring of any exposed horses.

- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed 1644 procedures accounting for 7728 tests and/or services.
- The ADL announced a new test for bovine Trichomoniasis using direct ribonucleic acid polymerase chain reaction (RNA PCR). The new assay will allow the use of phosphatase buffer saline (PBS) or saline as a collection device. This new test will provide improved sensitivity, reduce overall costs associated with purchasing culture media, and simplifies specimen handling and storage. Testing is currently available in Sparks and Elko.
- The Elko lab submitted the application to offer Equine Infection Anemia (EIA) Coggins testing and approval is pending.
- The ADL successfully completed proficiency testing for Brucellosis serology and Rabies direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) required for surveillance efforts.
- NDA staff continues working with Nevada Department of Health Human Services on the 2023-24 Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture program in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).
- The ADL completed a rabies electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) project to report all rabies reports in real-time to public health and the CDC.
- 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.
- In February, the ADL Supervisor attended Vector Week 2024, hosted by the CDC. Multiple sessions were held related to strategies to prevent and control vector-borne diseases.
- **Dairy/Processing/Auditing**
 - Inspection staff conducted/completed the following;
 - 29 dairy farm inspections and 2 reinspections;
 - 1 single service facility inspection;
 - 7 food processing plant inspections;
 - 6 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests;
 - 1 warning and compliance notification was issued;
 - 4 complaints received and investigated;
 - collected 196 milk samples;
 - evaluated 24 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers;
 - 8 milk plant sampler evaluations;
 - 3 plant/farm ratings;
 - 15 milk tank truck inspections;
 - 2 meat and poultry processing facility inspections;
 - 2 water samples were collected;
 - 16 staff training hours;
 - 1 consumer inquiry was investigated;

- 3 Food Safety Plan reviews and 2 label reviews;
- 11 field investigations.
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 243 dairy distributors licensed and 13 Craft Food Permits.
- NDA's Dairy received an equipment grant award in the amount of \$24,928.00 through the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) in support of National Grade "A" Milk Safety and National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The grant is funded by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USDA) and will be used to purchase a new laboratory fluorometer, computer equipment, and supplies.
- The Dairy laboratory went live in the new laboratory information management system (LIMS) eliminating manual tracking and manual reporting.

Industry Impact

- The re-opening of NDA's Elko laboratory will expand regional access and support for Trichomoniasis and EIA testing.
- Both the ADL Elko and Sparks laboratory sites validated a new Direct PCR test for Trichomoniasis that allows for improved turnaround and increased sensitivity. No incubation is required. Both labs are validating phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and saline. Testing was offered beginning February 5, 2024.