

# December 8, 2023 Board Report

## Animal Industry

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### Division Overview

- **Pending matters of significance**
  - Livestock Inspection Program
    - Rebuilding continues in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan.
      - Program fee structure revisions were implemented May 1, 2022.
      - Surface Pro tablets (33) were secured to replace aging iPads and distribution to inspectors is continuing.
      - Replacement printers have been received and are being distributed.
      - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at the public livestock auctions.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 Division of Animal Industry Deputy Administrator position has been announced and we are seeking qualified applicants.
- **Partnership activities**
  - 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.
    - Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Veterinary Nursing Program and the NDA have partnered in an interlocal contract to provide veterinary service rotations for students.
    - NDA was recently granted a subaward, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program (ELD) under the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), 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/estray (VRE) horses. Calls between August 1, 2023, to current are reported to be 201.
    - To prevent horses straying from outside the boundaries of the Virginia Range area in Fernley, WHC continues to work with city, county, and state agencies on future fencing projects.
    - WHC continues to perform diversionary feeding in only NDA approved locations to draw horses away from highways and urban areas.

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- WHC reports 5 horses versus vehicle crashes from August 2023 to current. There were 42 crashes reported in 2023, 27 in 2021, and 46 reported in 2020.
- Sixteen horses have been relocated from various urban areas of the Virginia Range since August 2023. 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 August 1, 2023, to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 205 individual mares with 205 doses, (53 doses given as a primer and 152 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,513 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.

#### **Program Updates (from August 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023)**

- Commercial Feed
  - This program has 146 registered and active accounts.
- Livestock Enforcement
  - The NDA's Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties:
    - 21 livestock investigations requiring 97.5 staff hours;
    - 40 staff hours of follow up investigations;
    - 1 animal health investigation requiring 3 staff hours;
    - 8 public service responses;
    - 87 traffic stops;
    - 6 transit inspections;
    - 17 check sites with 2 violations;
    - 188 brand inspections requiring 214.25 staff hours;
    - 17 strays;
    - 37 estrays;
    - 7 VRE responses requiring 14.5 staff hours;
    - 1 livestock in roadway response;
    - 2 crashes with livestock;
    - 5 crashes (traffic);
    - 12 highway kills;
    - 5 livestock railroad kills;
    - 302.5 administrative staff hours;
    - 23 agency assists;
    - 179 staff training hours;

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- 1085 phone calls;
  - 121 event/public auction checks;
  - 52 contacts made;
  - 36 staff hours for equipment maintenance;
  - 4 verbal warnings;
  - 2 misdemeanor citations issued;
  - 3 nursery traffic stops.
- Livestock Identification
    - Staff have completed more than 2,704 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 86,068 animals, including the public livestock auctions.
    - Brand inspectors have worked 2,688 hours and traveled 68,700 miles performing brand inspections.
    - Division staff renewed 111 brands, approved 48 new brand applications, 7 temporary brand applications and transferred 11 brands. Currently, there are 12 pending brand applications.
    - Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,219 active Nevada brands and 559 expired brands.
    - Received 2,342 livestock assessment filings for 2023.
    - 2,452 livestock movement permits have been issued in 2023.
    - 63 agricultural licenses have been issued.
    - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 83 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses.
  - 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. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes badgers 4%, coyotes 95%. The remaining 1% was comprised of beavers and striped skunks.
    - Staff provided public outreach to 204 individuals or businesses. Staff took no samples for testing for disease of predatory animals during this time.
    - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 24 lambs; 18 adult sheep, 3 adult goats, 77 kid goats, 113 chickens and 15 farm ducks and 6 calves that were killed during the reporting period.
  - Veterinary Medical Service
    - In October, Veterinarian Diagnostician and State Veterinarian attended United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory meeting in Maryland. Multiple meetings were held on animal health and on health as a well as a new diagnostic measure for current and emerging diseases in livestock.
    - 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 45 sheep heads for the months

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- of August – October 2023. NDA has met the yearly requirement for scrapie testing goats and sheep for the federal year which ended on September 30, 2023 to maintain our Scrapie Consistent State status.
- From August 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 475 sheep and 874 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance. Dr. Forbes attended the White Pine and Tri-County Fairs in August and September inspecting sheep and goat entrants for scrapie identification compliance.
  - The State Veterinarian is working with garbage feeders to make sure they are in compliance with state and federal regulations.
  - There are currently two facilities that have tested positive for Trichomoniasis; one in Churchill County and one in Pershing County. Quarantines have been issued for exposed and fence line contacts to work at location any other exposed animals that have been infected.
  - NDA distributed 9,329 free electronic identification (EID) tags to Nevada cattle producers between August 1<sup>st</sup> to October 25, 2023.
  - For FY24, the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed 5,286 procedures accounting for 12,235 tests and/or services to date.
  - In FY24, the ADL performed 1,079 surveillance tests for West Nile Virus (WNV). These pools consisted of 28,889 mosquitos by partnering vector and public health agencies. To date, positive pools were found in Churchill County and Clark County.
  - The ADL continues to provide non-human rabies surveillance for the state of Nevada. For the current calendar year, there have been 289 cases, and 14 positive bats found in multiple counties.
  - NDA hired a new Microbiologist II for the Elko Laboratory. The Elko laboratory will provide official molecular testing for bovine Trichomoniasis and offer Equine Infection Anemia (EIA) Coggins testing by the end of the year.
  - In September, the ADL's Microbiologist IV attended a course, *Laboratory Methods for Detecting Rabies Virus*, sponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Viral Rickettsial Disease Laboratory at the California Department of Health.
  - The ADL continues to host TMCC's Veterinary Nursing Program Class of 2023. The students are provided training on topics including disease traceability, state and federal regulations, laboratory testing procedures and zoonotic diseases.
  - On September 14, 2023, the ADL hosted a wildlife Necropsy Class for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and students at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).
  - NDA staff continues working with Nevada Department of Health Human Services on the 2023-24 Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture

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program in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).

- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
  - Staff members attended the Pack Expo in Las Vegas.
  - Staff members attended a Pasteurization Controls and Test Course in Arlington, TX.
  - Staff members attended a Milk Plan Inspection and Sanitation course in Boise, ID.
  - Inspection staff conducted/completed the following;
    - 19 dairy farm inspections, and 9 reinspections;
    - 2 single service facility inspections;
    - 10 food processing plant inspections;
    - 8 milk tank truck inspections;
    - 7 meat and poultry processing facility inspections;
    - 13 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests;
    - 12 bulk milk hauler sampler/weigher evaluations;
    - 3 milk plant sampler evaluations;
    - 1 plant/farm rating;
    - 2 consumer inquiries investigated;
    - 6 complaints received and investigated;
    - 10 warning and compliance notifications issued;
    - 159 milk samples collected;
    - 32 water samples collected;
    - 136 training hours;
    - 8 Food Safety Plan reviews and 22 label reviews.
  - The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 254 dairy distributors licensed and 11 Craft Food Permits.
  - The Dairy Outreach Program has participated in 1 educational event with Moolissa the Cow.

### Industry Impact

- The re-opening of NDA's Elko laboratory will expand regional access and support for Trichomoniasis and enzyme immunoassay (EIA) testing.
- Both the ADL Elko and Sparks laboratory sites validated a new direct polymerase chain reaction (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. Planning is underway to offer testing by the end of this year.