

**Nevada Board of Agriculture**  
Meeting Minutes  
*Friday, December 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.*



**Meeting Location:** Nevada Department of Agriculture  
2300 East St. Louis Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
702-668-4590

**Video Conference:** Nevada Department of Agriculture Nevada Department of Agriculture  
4780 East Idaho Street 405 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Elko, NV 89801 Sparks, NV 89431  
775-778-0270 775-353-3601

**Virtual Meeting Information:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82605148691>  
Meeting ID: 826 0514 8691  
Phone: +1-669-444-9171  
Phone Access Code: 826 0514 8691

**Public notice**

Below is an agenda of all items to be considered. Action may be taken on items preceded by an asterisk (\*). Two asterisks denote possible closed session (\*\*). Items on the agenda may be taken out of the posted order, items may be combined for consideration, and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time at the discretion of the chairperson. Unless noted as an action item, discussion of any item raised during a report or public comment is limited to that necessary for clarification or necessary to decide whether to place the item on a future agenda.

Public comment may be presented in-person, by computer, phone, or written comment. Written comments may be submitted by completing a public comment form available online at [agri.nv.gov/Administration/Board\\_of\\_Agriculture/Board\\_of\\_Agriculture\\_Public\\_Comment/](http://agri.nv.gov/Administration/Board_of_Agriculture/Board_of_Agriculture_Public_Comment/). Written comments can also be submitted via fax to 775-353-3661, email to [h.rincon@agri.nv.gov](mailto:h.rincon@agri.nv.gov), or to any of our offices listed below.

- a. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431
- b. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801
- c. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 2300 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104

The chairperson may limit public comment that is repetitious, does not relate to a matter within the board's jurisdiction or prevents the meeting from continuing in an orderly manner. All public comments should be addressed to the Board of Agriculture and not an individual member. The board asks that your comments are expressed in a courteous manner. All public comment is limited to three minutes per person. Unused time may not be reserved by the speaker nor allocated to another speaker.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations for assistance at the meeting. Please call Holly Rincon at 775-353-3619 to make arrangements.

Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations: Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2300 St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Copies of the agenda, supporting documentation and meeting minutes are available, at no charge, at the Nevada Department of Agriculture website at [agri.nv.gov](http://agri.nv.gov) or [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov) or by visiting the Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Open meeting-call meeting to order by Chairman Woody Worthington at 9:00 a.m.**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Moment of Silent Reflection
  - It has been a tragic week here in Las Vegas. Would like to take a moment of silence to honor the victims and their families, and those first responders who were involved in the recent shooting at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).
- C. Virtual attendee reminders
- D. Roll call – Total attendees – 44
  - Board of Agriculture (10):
    - Woody Worthington
    - Jim Snyder
    - Bernard Petersen
    - Heather Lackey
    - Paul Noe
    - Dave Coon
    - Brooke Neubauer
    - Charlie Frey
    - Craig Schank, DVM
    - Duane Coombs
  - Deputy Attorney General Richard Yien (1):
  - Department of Agriculture (19):
    - J.J. Goicoechea
    - Doug Farris
    - Amara Vigil
    - Bill Striejewske
    - Chad Sestanovich
    - Meghan Brown
    - Holly Rincon
    - Shelley Pope
    - Ciara Ressel
    - Patricia Hoppe
    - Scott Clifford
    - Jake Dawley

- Jessica Whitfield
- Jeff Knight
- Brittany Malley
- Julia Miller-Ketchem
- Lindsay Talbot
- Peter Mundschenk
- Melanie Sanchez Hernandez
- Public Attendees (14):
  - Robert Combs
  - Hank Combs
  - Mimi Diebold
  - Gabby Everett
  - Nicole Hayes
  - Eric Covington
  - Chris Gleim
  - Leanna Carey
  - Tracy Wilson
  - Deana Kirk
  - Alex Tanchek
  - Mark Ono
  - Will Dawson
  - Jennifer Garrett

## 2. Public Comment

- Gabby Everett, Three Square Food Bank
  - On behalf of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square Food Bank, we want to take a moment to thank the Nevada Department of Agriculture and local producers across the state for their commitment to making the Home Feeds Nevada program a remarkable success since its inception in 2021. As Nevada's food bank and pantry network of hundreds of nonprofit organizations strive to meet the meal gap through service to our state's food insecure residents each day, this work has been made easier through the addition of the Home Feeds Nevada program, which has distributed more than 1.75 million pounds of product since its formation. This locally produced, often regionally relevant, nutrient-dense, and exceptional quality product has included milk, tomatoes, various greens, melons, and more recently, meat protein, such as ground beef and pork roast. On behalf of the more than 280,000 individuals we collectively serve each month, an immense thank you is offered.
- Hank Combs
  - We began running the Las Vegas Livestock after RC Farms closed down and have been operating for about 5 years; mostly pigs. We took the process of recycling food scraps from the casinos and modernized it; we process the food through a permit with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture

(USDA). We had some rough times with Covid but we're coming out of that and will actually grow a little bit this year; currently have about 4,000 pigs, some goats, sheep, cattle, turkeys and hens. That's what we do and wanted to let you know.

- Bob Combs
  - NDA has a very important position, particularly with regard to food and conservation; I support that locally and nationally. Thank you for allowing me to be here.

**3. Minutes**

- \*Approve August 31, 2023 minutes (*for possible action*)
  - Motion to accept meeting minutes from Jim Snyder.
  - Paul Noe seconded the motion and spoke regarding Boyd Spratlings' comment at the last meeting, especially pertaining to the Board being able to review Bill Draft Requests (BDRs), new legislation or suggested changes to legislation. We should review any legislation that will impact agriculture and I think it is important that the Board does that.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Board Management**

- A. \*Discussion of possible Board Meeting dates for 2024. Other possible dates may be discussed as well. (*for possible action*)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date (Wednesday)</b>	<b>Date (Friday)</b>
Sparks, NV	March 6 <sup>th</sup>	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Sparks, NV	June 5 <sup>th</sup>	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
Elko	September 4 <sup>th</sup>	September 6 <sup>th</sup>
Las Vegas	December 4 <sup>th</sup>	December 6 <sup>th</sup>

- Dr. Schank wanted to be sure these dates work for Director Goicoechea and his staff.
  - Response by Director Goicoechea is that yes, this year these days and dates work fine; this may be different during 2025 which is a legislative year.
- Motion to accept March 8<sup>th</sup> by Bernard Petersen.
- Seconded by Heather Lackey.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept June 5<sup>th</sup> by Jim Snyder.
- Seconded by Bernard Petersen.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept September 4<sup>th</sup> by Paul Noe.
- Seconded by Jim Snyder.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to accept December 6<sup>th</sup> by Bernard Petersen.

- Seconded by Heather Lackey.
- Motion passed unanimously.

B. Board Member Updates on Represented Industries (*for information only*)

**5. Director's Report**

A. Report – J.J. Goicoechea, Director (*for information only*)

- I have made it clear, we're an open door. Internal customer relations are important. We've hosted two lunches at each office which we provide and after today will be 2/3 complete. We invite everyone to come and take part and to show our appreciation for the hard work they do.
- To Mr. Noe's comment, there are no current Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) at this time. You have my promise that any BDRs we have will come through the Board first. We are working on the budget for 2024-2026 first and will get that built, and then right behind that we will see some policy requests come in.
- Home Feeds Nevada; I'm a firm believer in that program. They're doing a great job. I will not sugar coat it; we are going to need some help in 2025. In order to continue that program, we will need help from industry and the public to assist in making that happen. Your voices will be extremely important.
- Dr. Schank, I can relate to the lack of veterinarians in the industry. Senator Goicoechea worked on a bill to have up to seven seats at Utah State University; they will sign an agreement to come back and work in Nevada. Our hope is to get a few large animal veterinarians. This bill is something we did support, and something we worked on behind the scenes on with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR)..
- Mr. Coombs, I hear you loud and clear regarding animal traffic across the state; we will work with our local jurisdictions; the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is understaffed. We hear you and will do a better job coordinating with them and at least have educational resources out there for them. Also, regarding grazing in a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak; I have engaged for years with federal partners on creating a document that is going to be used as an aid to allow public land grazing during an outbreak, so that is coming as well.
  - Paul Noe gave a thank you for all the help.
  - Jim Snyder asked how the Sage-Grouse is affecting the state.
    - Some things are very concerning. The comment period is from 12/8/2023 to 12/26/2023; yes, the day after Christmas. We have asked for an extension. It is concerning. We are a cooperative agency, and we are pushing very hard and are pushing back on the things that we think will affect our industry.
- Recognition of Outstanding Service
  - Jeff Knight, Entomologist – 38 years of service.
  - Jim Buehler, Field Assistant – 41 years of service.
    - Eric Covington: On behalf of Jim, I just want to thank you for doing that.
  - Woody Worthington; that is amazing, and we are appreciative of all the

hard work from you and all the staff.

- Meat and Poultry Inspection Program and proposed changes to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 583; there is one more workshop scheduled for 12/15/2023. Please come and make comments.
- I am currently working on expanding urban agriculture; will have a call this afternoon with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on that. We're looking at abandoned warehouse spaces and vertical farming.
- I am also working to get more EQIP dollars in our state.

## 6. Administrative Services

A. Board Update – Amara Vigil, Administrator (*for information only*)

**Chairman Worthington called for a recess for 10 minutes beginning at 10:09 a.m.**

**Chairman Worthington called the meeting back to order at 10:20 a.m.**

- Director Goicoechea expressed his appreciation for the work that Amara Vigil does to prepare and present these budgets at each meeting, stating to the Board that we heard you in January, and we'll continue to bring you the numbers, so you'll know where we are financially.
- Deputy Director Farris expressed his thanks to Shelley Pope for getting us involved in the Nevada Day Parade. It was well received. There is a short video on social media if you're interested.
- Chairman Worthington commented that the social media postings have been wonderful. Keep up the good work. Shelley is amazing and doing a great job. Appreciate what you and your team are doing.

## 7. Animal Industry

A. Board Update – Chad Sestanovich, Administrator (*for information only*)

- Duane Coombs asked what the status was for the Nevada Police Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) for the Ag enforcement deputies.
  - Deputy Director Doug Farris answered that there is not much of an update; Ag police officers have filled out the forms. The last word was that they were still working with the Nevada Police Union to make it more concise and to the point to submit to the Director and myself for review; we fully support it. It is still with the Nevada Police Officers union at this time.
  - Duane Coombs asked if there was anything the Board could do to help facilitate the process.
    - Doug Farris stated they were hoping the police union would get a little quicker review and it might help to hear from a Board member. Deputy Farris will forward that information to Mr. Coombs.

## **8. Food and Nutrition**

### A. Board Update – Patricia Hoppe, Administrator *(for information only)*

- Chairman Worthington expressed his appreciation and thanks for the division and all the work they do.

## **9. Measurement Standards**

### A. Board Update – Bill Striejewski, Administrator *(for information only)*

- Chairman Worthington expressed his appreciation and thanks for the division and all the work they do, especially with regards to the Electronic Vehicles (EV).
- Bernard Petersen commented to Director Goicoechea, that Bill has had some limitations, but his coordination and implementation of the program has been exceptional. As a Board member and member of the community, I can see and appreciate the efforts.

## **10. Plant Health and Compliance**

### A. Board Update – Meghan Brown, Deputy Administrator *(for information only)*

- Bernard Petersen asked who the contact person is for weed-free inspections.
  - Meghan will forward this information.
- Paul Noe asked how we're coming along with the neonicotinoid compliance.
  - Megan Brown replied that the department had some further discussions and will send out some information regarding the labels, and non-use on plants. We will have some additional educational information coming out. The labels will not have to be changed at this time.

## **11. Public Comment**

## **12. Adjournment**

- Bernard Petersen motioned to adjourn.
- Brooke Neubauer seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

### A. Final roll call