

### Program Updates

- Pesticide Compliance Program
  - In coordination with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), NDA staff has developed and published an informational fact sheet outlining the previous five years' worth of sampling of Nevada surface waters for pesticides. The fact sheet can be found here: [Early warning pesticide monitoring in Nevada's surface waters \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/early-warning-pesticide-monitoring-in-nevada-s-surface-waters).
  - The NDA's Environmental Scientist IV is serving as the U.S. EPA Region 9 representative for The State Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG). SFIREG and working committees provide a platform for the states and EPA to resolve challenges and successfully implement pesticide compliance programs and policies in the United States and its territories. A report from the December 2020 meeting can be found at [r9\\_sfiregreport\\_nov2020.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.wordpress.com/r9-sfiregreport-nov2020.pdf).
  - In response to the identification and investigation of numerous companies making false and unsubstantiated claims involving product effectiveness in killing COVID-19, notices were issued to retailers, institutions, hospitals, food establishments, and schools on where they can find products and/or devices they can safely use.
- Plant Pathology
  - The NDA Plant Pathologist is assisting the USDA-Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to prescreen soils for potato wart disease while APHIS searches for a lab that can fill this capacity. Potato wart is a serious potato disease caused by a fungal pathogen that is not known to be present in the United States. USDA-APHIS classifies this fungus as an Agricultural Select Agent as it is a serious threat to agriculture.
  - Plant Pathology has concluded the FY19 Plant Protection Act (PPA) and Cooperative Agreement Program exotic diseases surveys. The FY20 surveys are in progress after being delayed and limited due to COVID-19. Nevertheless, staff have collected and analyzed 1,417 samples resulting in the diagnosis of a dozen exotic pathogens.
  - The profile and diagnostic capacity of the Plant Pathology Lab has been updated and expanded through the National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program (NPPLAP). The lab has had significant enhancements since its initial accreditation in 2014 for Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) regulatory programs.
- Noxious Weeds
  - The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) and the NDA completed a Memorandum of Understanding to include weed-free mulch in the Weed-Free program.
- Seed
  - The Seed Program has been working intensively with the Nevada Native Seed Partnership (NNSP) to prepare for the 5th Annual Nevada Native Seed Forum.

The Forum will be held virtually on March 16-17, 2021. The goal of the forum is to bring growers together to learn about native seed production, and possible diversification of their operations. Topics will include native seed production experiences and pathways to sell seed.

- Throughout the 2020 season, the Seed Program inspected and designated 100 individual wildland seed collections as “source identified.” Additionally, the program has issued 1,366 Source ID seed tags resulting in 74,355 lbs. of clean seed collected and certified throughout the state. Source identification is used to confirm plant species present in a specific ecosystem that could then be used for restoration work at a site with similar ecological properties.
- 6,490 potato tubers were planted in the NDA greenhouse for winter grow-out trials required by seed potato certification protocol. Tissue samples are collected from grow-outs and tested for the presence of latent viruses by the Plant Pathology Lab and the results are used to determine if seed potatoes can be certified.
- Chemistry
  - With an increase in pesticide residue sample and hemp sample requests received by the lab, new equipment is being incorporated to improve efficiency and capacity in performing:
    - Pesticide residues in soil, surface/ground waters, and others.
    - Pesticide residues in Hemp/Marijuana and concentrated marijuana samples.
  - The laboratory is in the process of securing an internal auditor to evaluate the lab preparedness for ISO 17025 accreditation. This accreditation will ensure the lab is operating efficiently and with precision, potentially creating other lab service opportunities on a state and national level.
- Crops
  - Export
    - The NDA experienced an increase of 20% this season for phytosanitary certificate inspections. The number of phytosanitary certificates issued for SFY 2021 (through January 31) was 526 compared to 441 certificates issued during the same time frame in 2020.
    - For onion exports, a decrease of 13% was experienced this season due to an increase in domestic sales. As of January 31, 2021, 530 Federal Shipping Point Certificates have been issued for 6,562,338lbs of onions compared to 599 certificates issued for 8,400,093lbs of onions as of January 31, 2020. The table below shows allium export inspection activities over the past 3 years.

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	<b>FY19 Certificates</b>	<b>Lbs. Shipped Canada</b>	<b>FY20 Certificates</b>	<b>Lbs. shipped Canada</b>	<b>FY21 Certificates</b>	<b>Lbs. Shipped Canada</b>
<b>July</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Aug</b>	14	175,420	26	328,560	21	161,720
<b>Sept</b>	99	1,372,850	157	1,952,617	90	1,170,830
<b>Oct</b>	83	1,047,320	110	1,748,868	92	1,204,861
<b>Nov</b>	76	975,972	91	1,393,439	98	1,350,489
<b>Dec</b>	74	977,455	110	1,629,981	112	1,209,000
<b>Jan</b>	73	838,185	105	1,346,628	117	1,465,458
<b>Totals</b>	419	5,387,202	599	8,400,093	530	6,562,358

- Produce Safety Program
  - Produce safety staff completed a review of all producer certificates holders to verify on-farm activities and whether farm scope and size would require Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), Produce Safety Rule (PSR) compliance and inspection. It was determined that the state has three very large producers, one small producer and four very small producer based on the Food Safety Modernization Act classifications. These classifications determine when a producer has to be compliant with the FDA’s Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. Program staff are moving forward with training and outreach activities to ensure that all producers identified in this review are prepared to receive a PSR inspection during the upcoming growing and harvest season.
- Hemp
  - The Department held a Temporary Regulation Adoption hearing on January 12, 2021 due to delays in receiving a final LCB document for a permanent adoption hearing. Temporary regulations will be used in order to proceed with establishing an approved state plan as required by the 2018 Agriculture Improvement Act. Three public workshops were held prior to the adoption hearing and the regulations will be filed per NAC 233B by February 17, 2021.
  - The USDA released the Final Rule for the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program on January 19, 2021 and become effective on March 22, 2021. The department’s temporary regulations were in line with the published Final Hemp Rules. As part of the Final Hemp Rules, the following key changes of industry significance were made:
    - Options for crop remediation
    - 15-day harvest window from sampling date extended to 30 days
    - The top 5-8 inches from the top flower of the plant are to be sampled

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- Background checks will be required only for the application and not each key participant
- 2020 Samples, Non-Compliant Samples, and Disposals
  - Of the 306 hemp samples analyzed for delta-9 THC, 8% did not meet compliance requirements. The following data includes harvest reports received between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020:

State of Nevada Statistics	Samples
Total Samples Collected	306
Non-Compliant Samples	23
Approved Crop Disposals	13

- Entomology
  - Imported fire ant surveys for southern Nevada were completed (almost 1100 traps) and no imported fire ants were found.
  - A small business impact questionnaire was submitted for proposed fees for diagnosing entomology and plant pathology samples. Results are pending.
  - Reports, data entry and project submissions were completed for FY19, FY20 and FY21 CAPS and Farm Bill projects. 5,000 specimens were identified for surveys results, mostly exotic woodborer samples, and 15, 000 specimens were processed for the arthropod reference collection.