

September 8, 2021, Board Update

Animal Industry Division



Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - Filling of the Ely Agricultural Police Officer II position has been approved for FY22 and the recruitment has been advertised.
 - The vacant Elko laboratory Biologist 3 position has been submitted to Agency HR for reclassification to a Microbiologist 3 position. Once approval of the reclassification has been received, the division will proceed with recruitment. Until approval is received to recruit for this position, the Elko laboratory will remain closed.
 - Program staff have held two workshops for proposed language changes to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 564 and NAC 565. The Public Hearing and Adoption step has been scheduled for September 9th, 2021.
 - Revisions to the original proposed language in NAC 571 have been drafted and released. The public survey has been completed and the small business impact statement for these revisions is currently in process. A public workshop will be scheduled and noticed once the small business impact statement is complete.
 - Proposed revisions to NAC 583, Meat, Fish, Produce, Poultry and Eggs: Public survey, small business impact statement and public workshop completed. During the public workshop the NDA received substantial negative input and dislike for the proposed language in its entirety. Due to the amount of negative comment and pushback directed towards the proposed language, a complete revision process of the proposed language for NAC 583 will be performed when staff time allows.
 - NACs still pending review of proposed revisions and the public workshop and hearing process include: NAC 441A, Infectious Disease; Toxic Agents; NAC 573, Public Sales of Livestock; NAC 577, Animal Remedies, Veterinary Biologics and Pharmaceuticals; NAC 584, Dairy Products and Substitutes.
- Partnership activities
 - USDA Wildlife Services
 - NDA and USDA Wildlife Services continue working jointly in performing wildlife damage management operations.
 - USDA/APHIS
 - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA/APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - 2021 first quarter updates were completed and submitted to USDA/APHIS.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2021, for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. Monthly calls to date total: July 62
 - American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)

- The NDA and AWHC third-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement is valid through April 30, 2022. The NDA continues to receive monthly reporting from AWHC covering the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reporting shows that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 206 individual mares with 208 doses (54 doses given as a primer and 154 doses as a booster) for FY22. The AWHC database has been updated to include 3,237 individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range area.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 387 registered and active accounts for FY22.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - NDA's 4 Agricultural police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY22: 28 new livestock investigations, 23 follow up investigations; 3 animal health investigations; 759 animals quarantined that were diverted from CVI and entry permit destination to a cutting event; 103 traffic stops; 16 warnings issued (6 livestock/brand and 10 animal health); 3 citations issued (1 livestock/brand and 2 animal health); 596 phone calls; 208 administrative hours; ; 39 strays; 15 estrays; 58 brand inspections; 0 transit inspections; 20 training hours; 3 VRE responses; 3 livestock in roadway responses; 1 livestock highway kill, 1 livestock railroad kill ; 15 agency assists; 3 livestock in roadway responses; 32 hours equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 1,320 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 30,395 animals, (excluding public livestock auctions as the handwritten hard copy sale packets have not been submitted for processing at the time of reporting).
 - Brand inspector staff have worked 1,215 hours and traveled 24,828 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 52 brands; approved 31 new brand applications (26 pending) and transferred 10 brands.
 - Staff have received 2,881 livestock assessment filings since 7/1/2021.
 - Staff have issued 2,727 livestock movement permits.
 - 4,828 2021 Livestock Assessment letters were sent out.
 - 78 agriculture licenses for FY22 have been issued.
 - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 50 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2021.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC)
 - PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout FY22. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 81% and ravens 9%. The remaining 10% was equally represented by lions, striped skunks, and badgers.
 - Employees provided public outreach to 56 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2021. 2 samples for testing were taken from predatory animals during this time.

- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 27 sheep (lambs) that were killed during the reporting period.
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - For FY22, the Animal Disease Lab (ADL) has performed 3,328 tests and/or services to date. This volume has increased from FY21 previous due to West Nile Virus surveillance and Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing for the Bureau of Land Management.
 - The ADL has been impacted by supply backorders impacting workflow. These backorders are mainly tied to plastics and consumables. Thanks to Renown Regional Medical Center (RRMC) and Charles River Laboratories, the ADL was able to borrow supplies to lessen impacts of testing turn-around-time. The ADL has also been able to help RRMC with specific consumables used in Microbiology. The public support has been noted and appreciated.
 - The ADL is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Public Health (APHL) on a project related to data modernization. The goal of this project is to improve real-time surveillance of rabies in animals; to inform disease emergence and spread; and to improve Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) surveillance work and use cloud-based processing approaches and storage via the APHL Informatics Messaging Services (AIMS) environment to allow a secure, direct connection to CDC program areas. The cost to upgrade the current laboratory information management system and update electronic reporting is federally funded.
 - All technical staff working in the ADL participated in the 2021 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) EIA Proficiency Test in July 2021. Participation in this event is a requirement to maintain accreditation as an approved testing facility and all staff were successful in passing.
 - The division continues to work through impacts related to grant funding. CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant has been impacted by COVID-19 funding redirection. The laboratory will have limited funds to cover West Nile Virus testing through FY 2022.
 - Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continue, including multi-state investigations.
 - Completed quarterly inspection of existing swine scrap feeding facility. A pre-licensing inspection was also conducted at a second southern Nevada facility to start feeding food waste to swine.
 - Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) investigations continue, with detection now confirmed in 8 counties. Cooperation with United States USDA APHIS is ongoing, including importation of vaccines. To date, more than 1,300 vaccine doses have been imported for use in domestic rabbits in Nevada. Public information, including a list of affected counties, is maintained on the NDA website.
 - State Veterinarian continues work with One Health partners and consults with Nevada Veterinarians regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in accordance with CDC recommendations.
 - Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) 840 and Official Calfhood Vaccination (OCV) tags continue to be issued by the NDA, in coordination with USDA

- APHIS to support animal disease traceability. Additional tags have been ordered and are available at no cost for Nevada herds implementing RFID tag use.
- State Veterinarian continues to work in conjunction with local law enforcement and animal control authorities on animal investigations, including disease investigations involving livestock and public health.
 - Investigations into illegal animal imports continue, including multi-state investigations.
 - State Veterinarian continues to work with industry partners and USDA APHIS on disease investigations.
 - State Veterinarian continues to communicate with state and federal partners regarding zoonotic disease outbreaks and investigations.
 - Additional USDA ADT grant funds that were previously requested and approved, have been expended on additional tag readers.
 - Veterinarian Diagnostician and State Veterinarian continue to implement new biopsy techniques for Scrapie sampling to increase the number of samples collected in accordance with USDA Scrapie program.
 - State Veterinarian participated in USDA APHIS virtual training courses in Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostics and Tuberculosis Testing (Comparative Cervical Tuberculin - CCT). In-person training is still postponed due to COVID-19.
 - State Veterinarian is maintaining communication with USDA APHIS VS regarding recent detections of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - The Animal Industry's Dairy program was awarded \$16,464 towards laboratory automation. This funding will be used to replace aging laboratory equipment including a microscope, water baths and adding redundant and/or back-up automation to support testing. This project is supported and funded by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
 - The division has posted a new opening for a Microbiologist IV position in Sparks, which supports testing and inspections for the Grade "A" Dairy Program.
 - Inspection staff conducted 3 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 2 reinspection's, and 7 dairy farm inspections and 5 reinspection's.
 - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 8 total equipment tests were conducted.
 - 5 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
 - 2 complaints have been received and investigated.
 - Inspectors conducted 2 meat facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff have collected 111 milk samples and 3 water samples.
 - Inspection staff evaluated 5 milk plant samplers and 23 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.
 - Inspection staff conducted 2 plant/farm ratings, and 1 lab evaluation, as well as 6 single service facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff completed 4 milk tank truck inspections.
 - 2 consumer inquiries were investigated
 - Inspection staff completed 2 Food Safety Plan reviews and 4 label reviews.

- 2 staff members completed FDA Pasteurization training.
- Following training and evaluation, an additional staff member passed certification to become a Delegated Sampling Surveillance Officer (DSSO).
- Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 59 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
- Audit staff have completed 7 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY22. Audit reviews yielded \$21,865 in remittances due and late fees of \$2,186 were collected.
- Assessment remittances collected for FY22 include: \$76,650 yogurt; \$18,175 ice cream/novelty; and \$13,942 cottage cheese.
- 3 new applicants registered as Distributors due directly to the field investigation work completed and account for \$21,943 in new revenues from dairy product remittance reporting.
- Dairy Distribution Program currently has 230 licensee accounts.

Industry Impact

- Reimplementation of Dairy assessments
 - During the 2021 Legislative Session, it was determined that by FY24, the Dairy Program budget would be insolvent. In addition, the budget subcommittee chose to eliminate the program's vacant Operations Manager position to achieve cost savings. It should be noted, however, that the future revenue from the reimplementation of assessments was not included during this determination.
 - Per NRS 584.410, the NDA is required to collect revenue through assessments of dairy products to provide funding for the Dairy Program administration and enforcement. The Dairy Program budget's shortfall was due in part to a reduction in the butter assessment from \$0.01 per pound to \$0.00 per pound and fluid milk/cream assessment from \$0.0004 per pound to \$0.00 per pound in 2014-2015.
 - Effective July 1, 2021, the NDA reimplemented the collection of dairy product assessments for butter and fluid milk/cream with the previous assessments of butter \$0.01 per pound and fluid milk/cream \$0.0004 per pound. Distributors and affected parties were provided two notifications prior to the reimplementation.