

December 14, 2022, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDA) rebuilding of the Livestock Inspection Program, in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan, continues to progress. Program fee structure revisions were implemented May 1, 2022. The 2023 brand renewal process was initiated November 1, 2022. 30 state employed intermittent Brand Inspectors have been hired. 20 contracted Brand Inspector positions were retained for hiring and program inspection needs. 3 full-time Brand Inspector positions were approved and the hiring process has begun. 33 Surface Pro tablets were secured to replace aging iPads and distribution to inspectors has begun. Replacement brand inspector printers have been ordered. NDA staff are investigating possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at the public livestock auctions.
 - Revisions to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 571) continue. One public workshop was held virtually on March 27, 2022, and three in person/virtual workshops were held in November 2022 in Winnemucca, Elko, and Fallon. With input received during these workshops, staff will revise and edit the current proposed language. Additional in person/virtual workshops will be scheduled that will include the updated language.
 - The State Veterinarian resigned. Dr. J.J. Goicoechea will serve as the interim State Veterinarian while the NDA begins recruitment for permanent position.
- Partnership activities
 - USDA-APHIS
 - 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 2022 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2022 for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. FY23 calls to date: 306.
 - 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.
 - WHC reports 24 horses versus vehicle crashes to date for 2022. There were 27 for 2021 and 46 reported in 2020.

- Relocations: 4 horses have been relocated from various urban areas and locations outside of the Virginia Range where the horses have strayed. 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 fourth-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement. The current agreement is valid from May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023. The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC covering the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports show that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 929 individual mares with 941 doses (221 doses given as a primer and 720 doses as a booster) for FY23. The AWHC database has been updated to include 3,322 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.
- The NDA performed an arial survey of horse abundance in the Virginia Range area in coordination with BLM in March 2022. The statistical analysis completed with data obtained during the arial survey indicated an estimated population of 3,567 horses.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 298 registered and active accounts for FY23.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - The NDA's four Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY23: 31 livestock investigations resulting in the dedication of 66.5 staff hours and 38 hours for follow up investigations; 5 animal health investigations resulting in the dedication of 19.5 staff hours; 262 animals quarantined requiring 45 staff hours; 82 traffic stops; 3 check sites totaling 8 staff hours; 29 warnings issued (21 livestock/brand and 8 animal health); 2 misdemeanor citations issued (2 livestock/brand); 888 phone calls; 35 individual contacts; 226 administrative hours; 12 strays; 8 estrays; 130 brand inspections resulting in the dedication of 135 staff hours; 10 transit inspections; 157.5 training hours (6 instructed, 178.5 received); 6 VRE responses requiring 10.5 staff hours; 5 livestock in roadway responses; 2 livestock railroad fatalities; 24 agency assists; 1 vehicle crash versus livestock; 2 vehicle crashes (traffic); 1 animal highway fatality; and 18 hours of equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed more than 7,000 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 213,785 animals, including the public livestock auctions.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 4,660 hours and traveled 101,387 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 134 brands, approved 132 new brand applications and transferred 16 brands.
 - 2,780 brand renewal notices were delivered to registered brand owners via email and hard copy in the beginning of November 2022. Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 1,703 brands.
 - Received 2,433 livestock assessment filings for 2022.

- Issued 2,475 livestock movement permits.
- 16 agriculture licenses for FY23 issued.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 80 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2022.
- **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 FY23. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 57% and ravens 42%.
 - Staff provided public outreach to 398 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2022. No samples for testing taken from predatory animals during this time.
 - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 171 goats; 130 lambs; 11 adult sheep, 1 calf, 1 llama and 160 chickens that were killed during the reporting period.
 - Recruitment for 3 Field Assistant II positions for Elko and Fallon are in process.
- **Veterinary Medical Services**
 - The NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. NDA staff have obtained an additional 52 samples. For Federal FY22, Nevada, along with other multiple states, did not meet the sheep sampling requirement. Circumstances contributing to the deficient sample numbers include lack of producer participation and the closing of Wolf Pack Meats earlier this fall. USDA has announced that there would be no loss of state consistent status for any state that did not meet their sampling minimums in Federal FY22.
 - Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continue, including additional multi-state investigations. As of November 14, 2022, 4 Nevada premises are under quarantine for Trichomoniasis. Multiple additional contract herds will most likely be included in hold orders in the coming weeks.
 - Quarterly, routine swine scrap feeding inspections continue as required per state and federal regulations for Nevada's two licensed facilities.
 - Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) investigations are ongoing, with a total of 8 counties with detections. The RHDV2 vaccine, manufactured in the United States, continues to be available on Emergency Use Authorization, to Nevada veterinarians.
 - Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) 840 and Official Calhhood Vaccination tags continue to be issued by the NDA, in coordination with United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) to support Animal Disease Traceability. This fiscal year, 5,570 tags have been distributed. An additional allocation of tags has been approved for Nevada, and tags will be issued at no charge to veterinarians (OCV and 840) and producers (840) upon request, while supplies last.
 - Performance Reports were submitted to USDA-APHIS-VS for Cooperative Agreements for period FY22 (Q2).
 - Staff continue to work in conjunction with NDA law enforcement, local law enforcement and animal control authorities on animal investigations, including disease/cruelty investigations involving livestock and/or public health.

- Investigations into illegal animal imports are ongoing, including multi- state investigations.
- Staff continue to communicate with Centers for Disease Control, and OneHealth partners, regarding current and emerging zoonotic diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome-CoronaVirus-2 and Monkeypox.
- Nevada had a detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Nye County in a large backyard layer flock in October of 2022. Samples were sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory for confirmation and a quarantine was issued on October 17. NDA staff continue to work in coordination with USDA-APHIS-VS following the detection, including subsequent surveillance in the control zone. This facility has elected to remain populated, and a longer-term quarantine and control zone will be maintained in this area. This is the second detection in Nevada.
- Staff continue to respond to any reported sick birds and coordinate with USDA-APHIS-VS on testing. NDA staff continue to communicate with the Nevada Department of Wildlife regarding impacts and disease spread in the wild bird population related to HPAI.
- Veterinarian Diagnostician attended and presented at the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in October 2022. This conference brings state and federal officials, veterinarians, and livestock producers together with the mission to control livestock disease in the United States by sharing scientific discipline-based materials, review policies and provided resolutions regarding animal disease control programs.
- The Veterinarian Diagnostician and Livestock Inspector performed Scrapie livestock inspections in Fallon and Winnemucca during this period. For the first quarter of state FY23, 1,008 sheep and 1,923 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie ID compliance. The Veterinarian Diagnostician also monitored scrapie ID compliance at the Tri-County Fair in Winnemucca in August.
- The Veterinarian Diagnostician supported the USDA by providing comparative cervical test (CCT) testing at a dairy in Nevada. Only the USDA veterinarians or certified veterinarians can perform this test.
- FY23, the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 4,994 procedures accounting for 15,272 tests and/or services to date. This total number includes 5,665 Equine Infection Anemia (EIA) tests, which was a significant increase for the laboratory.
- The ADL has performed West Nile Virus surveillance testing on 17,619 mosquitos in pools and 2 avian specimens submitted by partnering with vector and public health agencies. The ADL provided capacity support to the Southern Nevada Health Department (SNHD) during the end of the season. To date, one positive WNV case was reported in an avian species.
- The ADL continues to provide non-human rabies surveillance for the state of Nevada. To date, there have been 290 cases, and 7 positive bats, found in Clark, Douglas, and Washoe counties.

- The ADL continues to host the Truckee Meadows Veterinary Nursing Program Class of 2023. On a weekly basis, a total of nineteen students will visit the site. The ADL's Veterinary Diagnostician, Laboratory Supervisor and Microbiologists provided outreach and education to each student. The students are provided training on topics including disease traceability, state and federal regulations, laboratory testing procedures and zoonotic diseases.
- The ADL hosted a wildlife Necropsy Class for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and students from the University of Nevada, Reno on October 27, 2022.
- The NDA continues to support the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health's (NDPBH) on a recently awarded grant from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). This grant funds the Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture and will support ongoing efforts to improve education on zoonotic diseases specifically among youth who are actively involved or around livestock such as sheep, beef, chickens, or pigs.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - Dairy laboratory staff are required to participate in Milk Proficiency Testing (PT) conducted by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In October 2022, the FDA released preliminary data showing successful completion in the 2022 Milk Microbiology and Pasteurization Efficiency PT.
 - The Dairy Microbiologist IV was granted conditional certification by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to perform milk phosphatase testing following training and PT participation.
 - The Dairy Operations Manager and Microbiologist IV attended a virtual 2022 Eastern Milk Seminar session. The session was primarily for Laboratory Evaluation Officers (LEO), LEO candidates and State Rating Officers (SRO) with a focus on National conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS), laboratory evaluation and SRO updates.
 - The Dairy Operations Manager and Microbiologist IV attended the 53rd Annual Dairy Practices Council Meeting located in Nashville, Tennessee in November 2022. The conference was an annual gathering of dairy industry, academic, and regulatory professionals focused on dairy industry predictions for 2024, training, education, networking, and task force sessions centered around the dairy industry. The trip was funded by a subaward grant issued by the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) in support of National Grade "A" Milk Safety and National Shellfish Sanitation Programs, funded by the FDA.
 - Inspection staff conducted 17 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 4 reinspection's, 44 dairy farm inspections and 19 reinspection's.
 - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 22 total equipment tests were conducted.
 - 23 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
 - 2 complaints received and investigated.
 - Inspectors conducted 7 single service facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff have collected 299 milk samples.
 - Inspection staff evaluated 6 milk plant samplers and 18 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.

- Inspection staff conducted 2 plant/farm ratings, and 2 lab evaluations.
- Inspection staff completed 10 milk tank truck inspections.
- 400 brucellosis samples drawn.
- 88 staff training hours.
- 32 consumer inquiries were investigated.
- Staff completed 3 store check for illegal products.
- Inspection staff completed 5 Food Safety Plan reviews and 32 label reviews.
- 4 staff members have completed FDA Pasteurization training.
- 3 new custom-exempt meat facilities permitted.
- Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 77 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
- Audit staff have completed 175 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY23.
- Audit reviews have yielded \$11,201.52 in remittances due and late fees of \$4,843.18 collected.
- 4 new applicants registered as distributors due to the field investigations completed through the dairy product auditing program.
- Dairy Distribution Program currently has 242 licensee accounts.
- 3 staff members participated in the FDA Laboratory Proficiency Testing for raw milk quality.
- 3 staff members attended the Dairy Practices Council Conference in Bloomington, NM.
- 1 staff member attended the National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials Conference.
- The dairy laboratory staff conducted proficiency testing for inhibitory substances for all dairy laboratories in the state.
- Renewals for Dairy Distributor Licenses initiated.
- The Dairy Outreach Program has participated in 7 educational events with Moolissa the Cow.

Industry Impact

- NDA State Meat Inspection Program Overview and Update
Shayda Sanjideh, Meat & Poultry Inspection Project Manager