



BIENNIAL REPORT 2021



Nevada Department
of Agriculture



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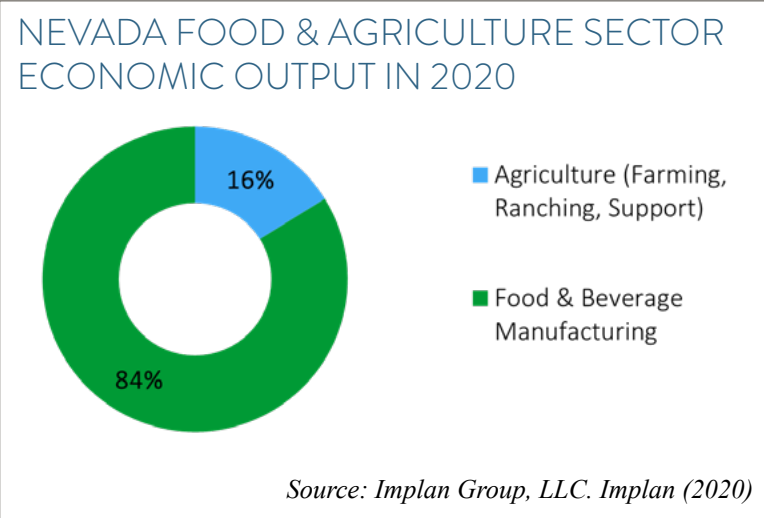
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AT A GLANCE

NEVADA

Economic output of the food and agriculture sector in Nevada:

- Nevada had an economic output of **\$4.85 billion** in 2019.
 - » Agriculture (ranching & farming): **\$994.2 million dollars**
 - » Food and beverage manufacturing: **\$3.904 billion dollars**
- Nevada had an economic output of **\$4.71 billion** in 2020.
 - » Agriculture (ranching & farming): **\$787.8 million dollars**
 - » Food and beverage manufacturing: **\$3.925 billion dollars**
- In 2020, the food and agriculture sector consisted of:
 - » **18,092** direct jobs
 - » Over **\$113.2 million** in wages



**Declines in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the 2021 Economic Analysis of the Food and Agriculture Sector in Nevada for more details.*

Data for this fact sheet comes from the 2021 Economic Analysis of the Food and Agriculture Sector in Nevada.

A LETTER FROM DIRECTOR JENNIFER OTT

Since the last biennial report, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has continued to improve the vitality of our growing food and agriculture industries and promote food security for communities throughout our state. After I was appointed director in March of 2019, our team created a strategic plan to improve our agency operations and better serve Nevadans. This plan guides us to meet our mission to preserve, protect and promote Nevada agriculture through goals like modernizing statutory and regulatory framework and increasing economic development opportunities for the food and agriculture sector. I am happy to report that we have made great progress towards our goals and the NDA is looking forward to the continued progress.

Over the course of 2019, the NDA celebrated many accomplishments, including releasing new food safety training resources, distributing \$31 million of food to food-insecure individuals, inspecting 35,168 commercial weighing and measuring devices, and inspecting and processing phytosanitary export certificates to support the movement of agricultural goods overseas, which saw a 45% increase.

As is the case for many other State of Nevada departments in 2020, we faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our offices closed to the public on March 17, but the work of our staff did not stop. Our staff worked night and day to manage NDA food warehouses in northern and southern Nevada, and made sure food and community nutrition organizations had what they needed to provide food to Nevadans. We continued to operate to ensure continuity of the food supply chain by ensuring safe and disease-free movement of livestock and crops. When CARES Act funds became available, the NDA distributed \$8.5 million in funding to help ease the burden on the food and agriculture sector and improve access to meals for food insecure Nevadans.

Our responsibility has always been protecting public health and safety, but I am incredibly proud of the work our team has done in the last two years to foster the success of the food and agriculture sector in Nevada. I hope you find this report of the NDA's accomplishments during the last two years informative. I welcome you to contact me with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ott
NDA Director

CONTACT



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Director

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FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION

FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION

A NOTE FROM FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

The priority of our division has always been to make nutritious food options available to Nevadans facing food insecurity. I am so proud of the work our team has done to help address the added strain due to COVID-19. Food and Nutrition division staff swiftly mobilized to ensure access for Nevadans in need of food assistance. Our School Nutrition and Community Nutrition teams worked quickly with program partners such as schools, childcare centers and adult daycare homes, to approve meal service plans and enable drive-through and pick-up service for students and community members. Food distribution staff has continued to deliver monthly household food boxes to tribal communities with no interruptions using a drive-through model to meet COVID-19 guidelines.

From students depending on school meals to community members in need of food distribution, our staff made sure access to food was available within the first 48 hours of closures. We could not have accomplished this without teamwork and I want to extend our thanks to NDA staff and partners who are making this possible.

Homa Anooshehpour

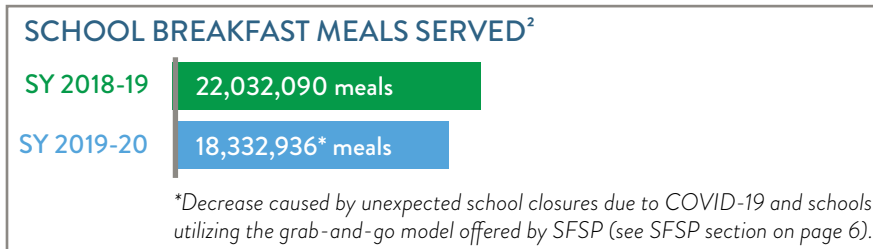
The NDA's Food and Nutrition division provides access to nutritious food for Nevada children, seniors and other food insecure populations.

The Food and Nutrition division offers support of child nutrition through the following programs:

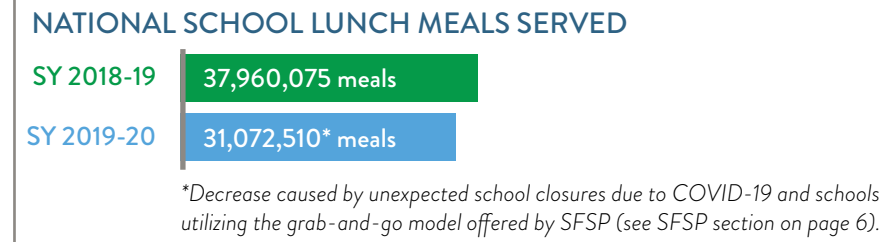
The Child Nutrition Commodity Support (CNCS) program provides USDA purchased foods for the Child and Adult Care Food program (CACFP), the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).



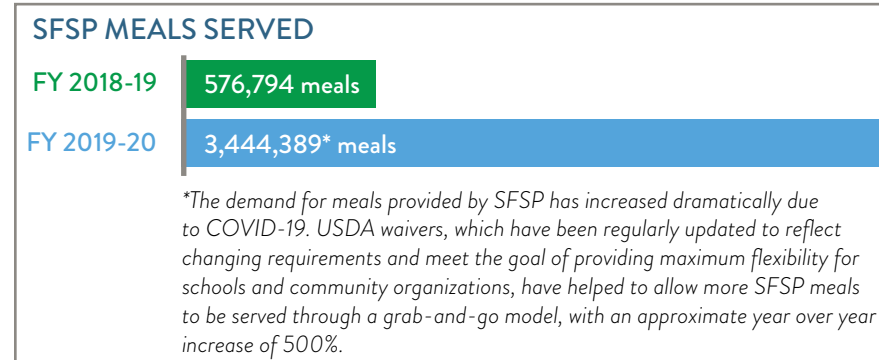
The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides nutritious breakfasts to promote learning readiness and healthy eating behaviors.



The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides students with nutritious lunches. Participants are encouraged to select fresh fruits and/or vegetables, whole grain rich choices, and low-fat or non-fat dairy with the NSLP meal patterns.



The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free, nutritious meals to children 18 and younger when school is not in session.

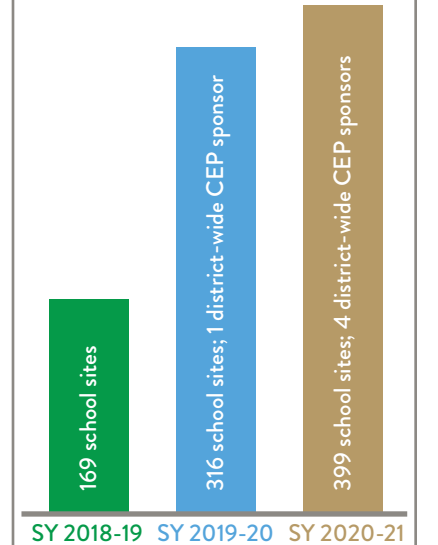


PROGRESS IN SCHOOL NUTRITION

The NDA staff have been working with Nevada school districts and charter schools operating federal school meals programs like NSLP to qualify and elect the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP is a federal meal service option that allows schools with high populations of food insecure students to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students.

Since 2018, the NDA facilitated a 136% increase in schools qualifying for and electing CEP in Nevada—from 169 to nearly 400 schools. Furthermore, four school districts have elected to operate CEP district-wide for all school sites and students: Nye, Churchill, Esmeralda and Mineral counties. This increase in CEP will make a tremendous impact on access to nutritious school meals in Nevada upon the June 30, 2021 expiration of the USDA COVID-19 nationwide universal free meals waivers.

ANNUAL INCREASES IN CEP SCHOOL SITES



1. Yearly data qualified as "FY" is defined by "fiscal year."
2. Yearly data qualified as "SY" is defined by "school year."

CARES ACT FUNDING ENHANCED FOOD DISTRIBUTION DURING COVID-19

In response to increased food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NDA released two funding relief opportunities through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES Act). The NV CARES Food Security Initiative provided \$3.55 million to food banks in Nevada (the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square Food Bank) to meet the increased need for food assistance created by the pandemic. The funds support costs associated with expanding food distribution access, purchasing additional food to meet increased need, and enhancing critical food storage and distribution infrastructure.

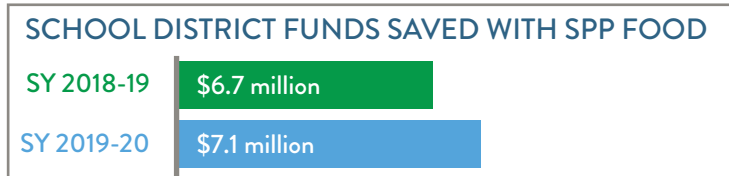
The NV CARES Community Food Response was released as a funding opportunity for Nevada community organizations and public entities across the state. Thirteen organizations received awards totaling \$3.28 million. These grants are funding a variety of projects that expand upon existing food assistance efforts by providing food to underserved and vulnerable populations.

Projects through both relief funds started Aug. 1, 2020 and continued through Dec. 30, 2020. In the first two months, they provided a combined one million pounds of food to 85,000 food-insecure Nevadans and supported more than 11,000 home deliveries of food to seniors and vulnerable individuals. The funds have also been used to purchase \$195,000 worth of critical food distribution infrastructure for food banks and community organizations, including delivery trucks, coolers, freezers and warehouse equipment.

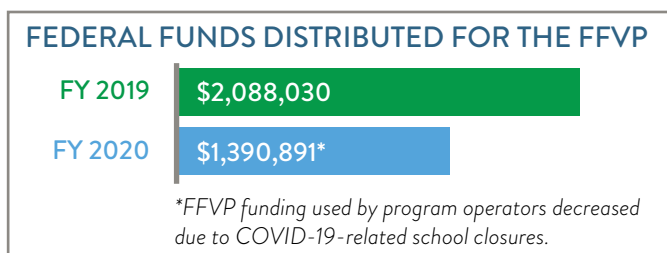
The Farm-to-School (F2S) Program connects students to Nevada farmers and fresh, healthy local foods. It provides resources and training to get local foods into classrooms and lunchrooms through farmer-classroom connections and school gardens.

- NDA staff hosted annual School Garden Conference with 89 attendees in 2019. The 2020 School Garden Conference was canceled due to COVID-19.
- In 2019, Clark County School District (CCSD) began sourcing milk from a Nevada dairy in Amargosa Valley. According to the Dairy Council of Nevada, approximately 216 million ounces of local milk was provided to CCSD students during the school year.
- In 2020, the NDA was awarded a USDA F2S State Agency grant in the amount of \$50,013 to improve F2S initiative outcomes through training, evaluations and meet your farmer programming over the course of two years.

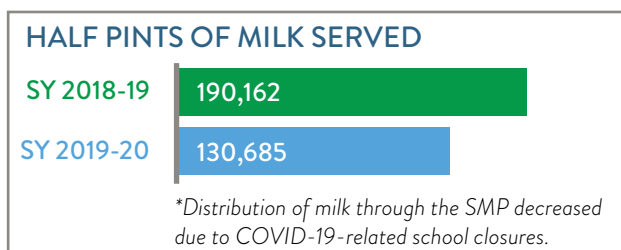
The State Processing Program (SPP) works with commercial food processors to convert raw bulk USDA purchased foods into more convenient end products like apple sauce or string cheese.



The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) increases the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in elementary schools, leading to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables in the cafeteria.

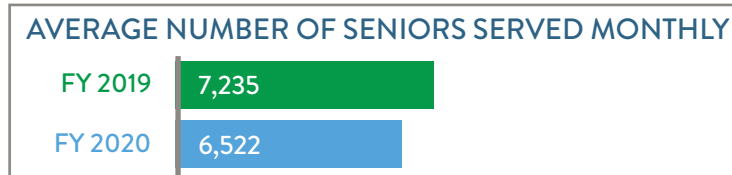


The Special Milk Program (SMP) provides milk to children who do not participate in other federal meal service programs in schools and childcare centers.

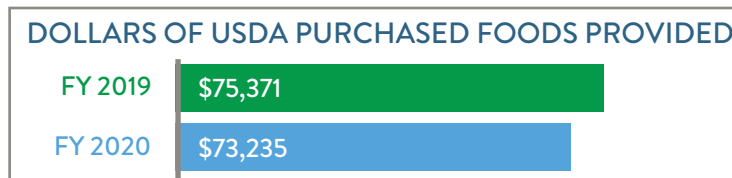


The Food and Nutrition division provides support to food-insecure seniors through the following programs:

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) improves the health of food-insecure senior citizens by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA purchased foods. Food boxes are distributed through East Valley Family Services in Las Vegas, Food Bank of Northern Nevada in Reno, and Friends in Service Helping in Elko.



The Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) offers USDA purchased foods as an alternative to cash in senior citizen centers throughout the state as part of the federal Older Americans Act.



The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) provides low-income seniors coupon books to use as cash at Nevada farmers markets, increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.

- April 2018 to Sept. 2019: Served more than 5,450 seniors and provided Nevada farmers with an additional \$242,000 in income.

RELEVANT REGULATIONS

NAC	NRS
• 387	• 385.080
	• 387.0693
	• 387.0695
	• 387.070
	• 387.073
	• 387.075
	• 387.080
	• 387.090
	• 387.100
	• 387.105
	• 387.114
	• 387.1145
	• 387.1151
	• 387.1155
	• 387.116
	• 387.1165
	• 387.117
	• 387.1175
	• 561.485
	• 561.489
	• 561.495

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

31 full-time
5 contracted full-time
1 contracted part-time



FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION

CONTACT



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Administrator

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Patricia Hoppe

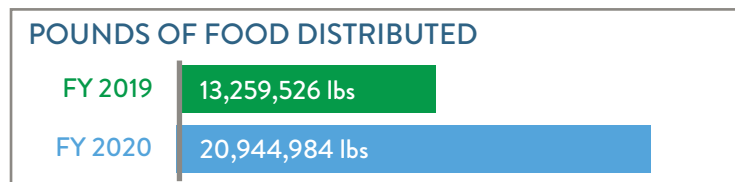
Deputy Administrator

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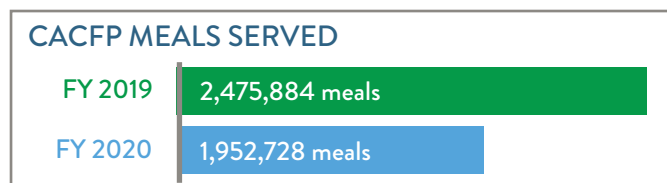
pxhoppe@agri.nv.gov

The Food and Nutrition division offers support to community members facing food insecurity through the following programs:

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides USDA Foods to food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens for distribution to low-income families.



The Child and Adult Care Food program (CACFP) uses USDA funds to provide nutritious meals and snacks to children in daycare and afterschool programs as well as adults in daycare centers.



The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) delivers foods to low-income individuals in 11 different tribes, colonies and reservations in Nevada using USDA funds.



ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

The NDA's Animal Industry division is responsible for animal disease detection and prevention, food safety protection, livestock identification, livestock theft prevention, agricultural products dealer licensing, commercial feed, natural resources protection and Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC) to protect public safety and agricultural resources. The division also oversees and regulates the state's animal import requirements.

The **Livestock Identification** program protects livestock producers and tracks the movement of livestock across Nevada and between states for health purposes through brand recording and inspections.

REBUILDING OF THE LIVESTOCK INSPECTION PROGRAM

During the 2019 Legislative session, NDA was directed to prepare and submit a comprehensive business plan for the Livestock Inspection program to address the historical financial issues that have plagued this program. NDA staff compiled historical program information, received feedback from industry members, and analyzed the current program to identify areas of shortfalls and measures that would need to be implemented to ensure that regulatory requirements are met while also ensuring that the program maintains financial stability. The completed business plan for the Livestock Inspection program was submitted to the legislature in June 2020 and provided to the Board of Agriculture and industry partners thereafter. The program rebuilding proposal consists of:

- Adjusting brand inspector staff from contracted positions to state employment;
- Onboarding state positions to include staffing of 30 intermittent and 5 full-time brand inspector positions statewide;
- Procurement and implementation of a digital public livestock auction software program;
- Procurement and implementation of an online field service scheduling system for brand inspectors;
- Replacement of outdated brand inspector iPads with digital notebooks; and
- Proposed changes to regulations under NAC 565 and NRS 564, which would allow for the collection of increased fees for program services provided to livestock owners and decrease the brand rerecording period from 4 years to 3 years (Bill number not assigned at time of printing of this publication).

This comprehensive program plan not only ensures that the department is providing the highest level of service to livestock owners and meets regulatory requirements, but also ensures the program is financially stable to continue providing the highest level of service for years to come.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The **Food Safety Laboratory** is accredited by the Food and Drug Administration's Laboratory Proficiency Evaluation Team as the state's central milk lab. The lab offers a variety of tests to the dairy and milk processing industry to confirm the quality and safety of milk entering the market.

The **Animal Disease Laboratory** offers services to industry, government agencies and the public to track and prevent the spread of animal diseases including:

- Testing for diseases such as West Nile Virus and rabies which can be spread between animals and humans.
- Testing for diseases which cannot be spread to humans but do pose a threat to the agriculture industry, such as trichomoniasis and equine infectious anemia (EIA).

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

A NOTE FROM ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

As we continue operating during COVID-19, I want to say how appreciative I am and how lucky NDA is to have the staff that we do. Since the beginning, and still today, our staff continue to work and support the programs and industries we serve. Animal Industry staff have kept offices and laboratories open and operating and have been working remotely from home and in the field, ensuring that we are providing services to the essential industries we serve.

PARC staff continued performing their essential functions and providing livestock protection with the benefit of natural social distancing in the field. Brand inspectors and administrative staff continued providing services to livestock owners across the state for continuity of agriculture commerce. Law enforcement staff worked remotely from home and in the field performing enforcement actions, carrying out investigations and ensuring fair business transactions in conjunction with protecting public health and safety. Daily business operating processes are performed with staff working remotely from home or socially distanced in the field or the Animal Disease Lab.

Laboratory testing supplies have been difficult to obtain or delayed, yet our staff have adapted by borrowing supplies from other laboratories and rapidly validating new reagents to minimize delays and preventing negative impacts to commerce and animal transportation. Our laboratory staff were also able to disassemble and assist in shipping three of our machines to the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada for temporary use to aid in COVID-19 human testing.

As noted above, continuing operations during this time has been difficult at best, but we have prevailed! Thank you to our staff and industry during this time.

Doug Farris



The **Animal Disease Laboratory** protects human health through its monitoring of diseases like rabies and West Nile Virus that can be transmitted from animals to humans. The lab is also responsible for diagnosis and control of any animal diseases of economic significance to the agriculture industry.

- In December 2020, the Animal Disease Laboratory began offering pooled trichomoniasis testing, a more cost-effective option to help producers comply with state regulations and prevent disease transmission within their herds. This also provides cohesion with laboratory requirements from other states and offers ease and efficiency to protect herds moving in and out of the state.

The **Agriculture Enforcement** program is comprised of Nevada Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certified sworn peace officers that serve the NDA, as well as the citizens and visitors of the state. The Agricultural Enforcement Officers serve as peace officers of the NDA with expertise in agricultural laws and crimes. The department's enforcement officers' primary focus is the protection of public health and safety and enforcement of all agricultural laws through road interdiction to prevent agricultural products that have not met the mandated requirements of plant or animal health and livestock identification from exiting or entering the state.

- NDA currently has five Agriculture Enforcement officers located in Sparks, Winnemucca, Elko, Ely and Las Vegas.
- An Agriculture Plant Quarantine Enforcement Guide has been created to help Agriculture Enforcement Officers and other inspectors monitor for quarantined products and protect Nevada agriculture and nursery industries from pests and diseases which can be economically and environmentally devastating.



ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

The **Dairy and Food Safety** programs consists of Craft Foods, Laboratory Services and Dairy Inspection. Previously under the Food and Nutrition division, the Food Safety program was reorganized under the Animal Industry division to further the goal in the NDA strategic plan to create a cohesive and customer focused organization.

- The Food Safety Program inspects, licenses and regulates all steps involved in the production and sale of dairy products to Nevada consumers.
- The Food Safety Laboratory is accredited by the Food and Drug Administration's Laboratory Proficiency Evaluation Team as the state's central milk laboratory, serving a significant role in the FDA Grade "A" Milk Safety program. The laboratory offers a variety of tests to the dairy and milk processing industry to confirm the quality and safety of milk entering the market.

The **Predatory Animal and Rodent Control** program protects Nevada's agriculture, natural resources, property and public safety from the threat of injury, damage or economic loss due to predatory animals, rodents or other wildlife.

- The program addressed thousands of predatory animals across Nevada in the last biennium, including coyotes, mountain lions and ravens. The areas addressed across the state encompass more than 4 million acres in which public resources and livestock were protected.

RELEVANT REGULATIONS

NAC	NRS
• 441A.410-445	• 561.035
• 561	• 569
• 565	• 571
• 566	• 574
• 567.010-.090	• 576.129-131
• 569	• 577
• 571	• 587
• 573	• 583
• 575	• 584
• 576	
• 587	
• 583	
• 584	

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

32 full-time
3 part-time
60 contracted part-time brand inspectors

CONTACT



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PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

LABORATORY SERVICES

The **Chemistry Laboratory** provides the following services to industry:

- Registration and analytical verification of fertilizer and pesticide products ensuring labeling guidelines and EPA standards are met
- Regulatory testing of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content in hemp
- Testing verification for marijuana products that fail third party pesticide residue analysis testing

The **Entomology Laboratory** offers the following services:

- Identification and surveying for native and exotic invertebrate pests
- Identification of pests and recommended treatment options for industry and the public

The **Plant Pathology Laboratory** is nationally accredited and provides diagnostic and testing services to the state and federal plant health programs and statewide clientele. Services include:

- Identification of plant disease and recommended treatment options for industry and the public
- Providing testing services for seed identity, viability, purity and seed-borne diseases in the Seed Laboratory

The NDA's Plant Industry division protects Nevada agriculture, the public and environment through services that include plant and range health, pest identification and mitigation, export inspection, pesticide compliance, drought response, and farm worker and food safety programs. The division operates under cooperative programs with the USDA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and state, county and city government.

The Plant Industry division promotes viable crop production through the following programs:

The **Export Certification** program assists Nevada farmers and exporters by providing mandatory inspection and certification for plants and plant products exported out of the state. Inspections help prevent the spread of invasive pests and diseases from one part of the world to another.

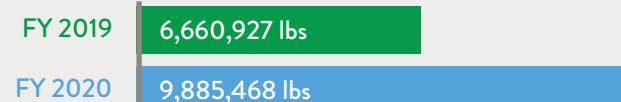
SHIPPING POINT INSPECTIONS IN THE LAST BIENNIUM

A marketplace inspector was approved during the 2019 legislative session and hired in November 2020. This position assists with meeting the growing inspection demand for the export of Nevada onion crops. Part of the Export Certification program includes shipping point inspections, ensuring the quality and size meets USDA product standards. These inspections are required by specific buyers. The NDA saw a 37.6% growth in inspection requests in FY20, in addition to a 48.4% increase in volume exported. Industry has indicated that additional production and export is intended for FY21.

NUMBER OF EXPORT AND PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES ISSUED



AGRICULTURE PRODUCT APPLIED FOR EXPORT



The Produce Safety Education and Compliance program works to facilitate federal compliance to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which is aimed at mitigating contamination when growing and handling crops commonly consumed raw. This program provides education, technical assistance, and state inspection services to farms and employees for mitigation of potential contamination commonly attributed to worker sanitation, water sources and animal intrusion.

- 17 FSMA training videos were created and released in English and Spanish for industry.
- Federal funds were secured to develop a food safety record keeping system for product diverse farms.

The **Hemp** program ensures hemp growers, seed producers and handlers (processors of raw hemp products) follow state and federal registration and testing requirements to prevent psychoactive materials from entering the stream of commerce. This requires the sampling and testing of all hemp produced in Nevada for THC (the psychoactive cannabinoid associated with marijuana), as hemp is defined by its low THC content.

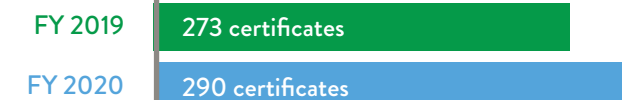
HEMP CERTIFICATES³

	Growers	Producers	Handlers	Acres	Indoor Sq. Ft.
CY 2019	216	47	61	4,918	266,668
CY 2020	116	20	47	1,610	281,150

Data updated as of 11/3/2020

The **Producer and Produce Vendor Certification** program performs site inspections to verify the quantity and variety of crops grown in the state. Certificates are tracked through a farmer registration system to provide traceability and consumer protection, and to capture Nevada crop production data.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED FOR PRODUCTION AND SALE OF PRODUCE



The **Specialty Crop Block Grant** program enhances the competitiveness of Nevada's specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops). The NDA conducts an annual competitive application process to award grant funds to eligible and top scoring candidates who will contribute to the success of the agricultural crop industry.

- Approximately \$250,000 was awarded in FY19 and 20.
 - » FY19: 8 projects awarded
 - » FY20: 5 projects awarded

A NOTE FROM PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

Plant Industry division staff quickly and strategically jumped into action to address industry challenges in response to COVID-19. I am proud and humbled to work alongside a team that is ardently ready to serve the agriculture industry and the public, particularly during challenging times.

Our division worked collaboratively across multiple programs to ensure continuity of inspection, certification and compliance services. This was accomplished by staff that were willing to step outside their normal program boundaries to meet the needs of our industries. Staff were trained in remote offices to perform inspections, surveys and certification services outside of their typical programs. This was particularly beneficial in completing invasive species surveys and critical for rapidly identifying invasive pests detrimental to Nevada agriculture, natural resources, land values and public safety.

Staff continue to demonstrate shared priorities in public service as they were temporarily reassigned to assist with pesticide applicator licensing testing, crop sampling and in distributing CARES Act relief funds. Staff coordinated with local government agencies in establishing guidance and outreach efforts that allowed direct-to-consumer food channels to proceed. The Plant Industry division established solutions and proved adaptable during these challenging times with the objective of supporting access to local foods and in protecting public health and safety. It is a privilege to work with such a driven and passionate group of people that care so much about the industry and public they serve.

Ashley Jeppson

3. Yearly data qualified as "CY" is defined by "calendar year."

REPORTING PLANT PATHOLOGY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Plant Pathology program has submitted 2019-2020 annual accomplishment reports to the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) administrated and funded by USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The report highlighted:

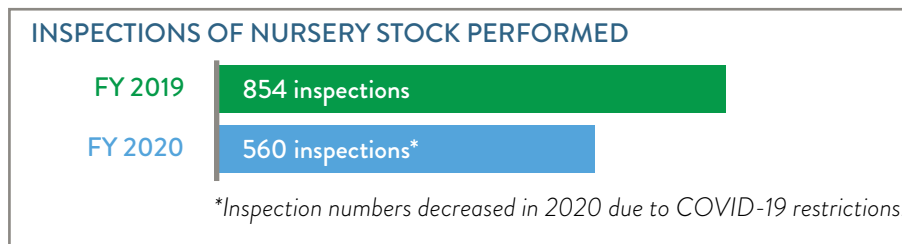
- 3 peer-reviewed publications beneficial to producers and state labs
- 5 outputs contributing to the NPDN (NDA is an authorized national diagnostics lab)
- 15 first detections of new diseases in Nevada or the U.S.
- 11 new accomplishments related to new method development and diagnostic capacity enhancement
- 2,667 regulatory diagnoses related to agriculture enforcement, inspections, quarantines, exports and exotic disease surveys
- 15 professional development workshops or events related to college student teaching, industry professional training, NPDN diagnostician training and lab accreditation auditing
- In FY21, Plant pathology secured external funding of \$177,064, which represents a 30% jump from the previous year. Most of the funding increase is to support the operations of a diagnostic laboratory on a national level.

The Plant Industry division protects plant health by monitoring for disease and invasive species through the following programs:

The **Noxious Weeds** program collaborates with federal, state and local government agencies, in addition to various weed mitigation entities to be proactive in the prevention, control and management of invasive weed species. This collaborative effort includes targeting invasive weeds on public and private property in Nevada for the protection of Nevada lands, native plants, fire mitigation, wildlife habitat, property values, agricultural products and water sources.

- In the last biennium, the NDA added seven new Noxious Weeds Species.
- Weed-free mulch is in the process of being added as a certification option for preventing the introduction of noxious weeds through mulch products. With this addition, weed-free forage, gravel and mulch will be certified by the NDA.

The **Nursery** program monitors, intercepts and prevents the spread of pests and disease on plant nursery stock, ensuring pest-free, disease-free and healthy plant material for sale to the public.



The **Entomology** program prevents the entry and spread of harmful exotic pests through pest identification, field surveys and enforcing applicable state quarantines and regulations. To further pest monitoring, rapid response and the implementation of effective treatment options, staff coordinate with federal partners, industry and the public.

- In FY20, 6,000 survey traps were placed and monitored for early detection and rapid response activities. Over 52,000 identifications were made by entomology personnel during survey activities to screen for target species.

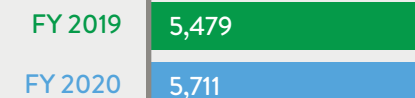
The **Plant Pathology** program works with other states and USDA to identify and prevent potential plant disease threats from coming into Nevada. This includes inspecting transport trucks and airline shipments from other countries. The plant pathology lab is a high-level plant health diagnostic lab and has diagnosed almost 4,000 samples/cases in FY20, a 100% jump from FY18, and a 33% increase from FY19. The lab provides services to industries, government agencies, the general public and other stakeholders.

The **Seed Certification** program provides regulatory support to seed growers and other business entities by offering seed certification services, conducting phytosanitary inspection of crops destined for export and enforcing state and federal seed laws intended to protect the interests of Nevada's seed industry.

ALLIUM INSPECTIONS PROTECT AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

NDA staff inspected 5,479 acres of allium (garlic, onion, etc.) fields for Stem and Bulb Nematode (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*) and White Rot (*Sclerotium cepivorum*) in 2019. Allium crop inspections found three garlic fields infected with White Rot. In 2020, 5,711 acres of allium crop were inspected, and two garlic fields (57 acres total) were found infected with the Stem and Bulb Nematode. At time of inspection, these five fields were rejected for seed certification, placed under state quarantine, and the fields were ordered to be treated and remain out of production. Stem and Bulb Nematode and White Rot come with significant impacts to the allium industry as fields must remain out of production for a minimum of two years after Stem and Bulb Nematode detection or indefinitely after White Rot detection. If seeds infected with Stem and Bulb Nematode or White Rot enter the stream of commerce, it could infect agricultural areas outside of Nevada and negatively impact the allium crop creating a shortage in crops resulting in economic consequences.

ACRES OF ALLIUM CROP INSPECTED



RELEVANT REGULATIONS

NAC	NRS
• 453a	• 453a
• 552	• 552
• 554	• 554
• 555	• 555
• 556	• 556
• 557	• 557
• 576	• 576
• 583	• 583
• 586	• 586
• 587	• 587
• 588	• 588

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

30 full-time
8 seasonal
2 contracted full-time
1 contracted part-time



PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

CONTACT

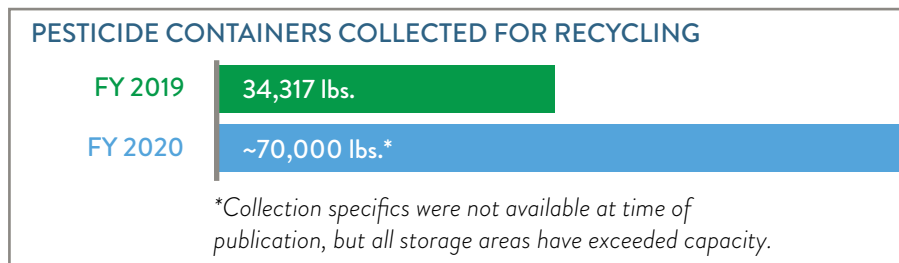
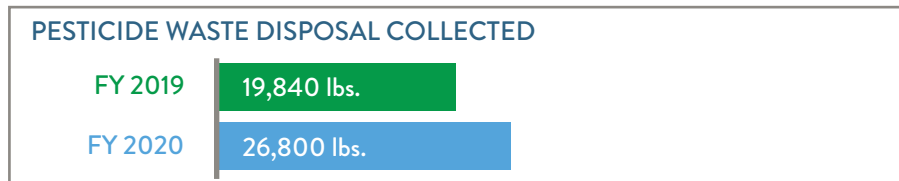


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Meghan Brown
Deputy Administrator
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The Plant Industry division protects the environment through the following programs:

The **Environmental Services** program maintains comprehensive pesticide enforcement, surveillance and laboratory analysis to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of pesticides. Through this program, the NDA offers pesticide and pesticide container recycling to keep chemicals out of Nevada waterways.



The **Drought Initiative** provides proactive, long-term strategies that will make Nevada’s agricultural and ranching resources more resilient to the impacts of prolonged drought. The intent is to promote water conservation, technology and practices to achieve drought resilience that is consistent and sustainable in Nevada for generations to come.

- In the last biennium, approximately \$500,000 was issued to the agriculture industry to implement water conservation projects, which was allocated to 11 projects.

The **Pest Control** program licenses and monitors all pest control companies and individuals statewide for compliance with state and federal laws. The program is responsible for the testing of all pest control operators and principles, tracking continuing education, performing operator inspections, investigating pesticide misuse complaints and reporting to the EPA.

- Between calendar years 2019 and 2020, NDA administered approximately 1,600 exams

DIVISION OF CONSUMER EQUITABILITY

The NDA’s Division of Consumer Equitability (CE) ensures quality of motor fuel and lubricants, as well as accuracy and consistency in all commercial transactions by regulating weight and volume for the protection of Nevada’s citizens and businesses.

The **Weights and Measures** program promotes fair trade based on accurate weight and volume, protecting the economic interests of Nevada consumers while also supporting an equitable marketplace for Nevada businesses.

REDUCED BACKLOG OF INSPECTION OF COMMERCIAL WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT

In the last biennium, CE focused its field inspection activities to address a backlog in inspection of commercial weighing and measuring devices. The division began tracking device inspection aging data in April 2019, at which time approximately 1,750 of the 44,580 commercial weighing and measuring devices licensed by the division had not been inspected within the previous two years. Reports and remote query tools were developed to allow field inspectors to identify devices more easily in their assigned inspection territory that were overdue for inspection. Supervisors were charged with developing plans for addressing aged inspections, particularly for those devices in territories with inspector vacancies. By early March 2020, the backlog of commercial devices had been reduced by 70%. This progress was achieved despite a 30% vacancy rate in the division’s field inspection positions for the majority of FY 2020. Suspension of non-essential field inspection activities during the statewide stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic has diminished some of the progress made towards the backlog reduction, but the division remains committed to prioritizing inspection of devices based on date of last inspection.

The **Metrology** program maintains traceability of the State’s primary weight and volume standards to the national standards. Metrology program staff compare and calibrate secondary and field standards to these primary standards, assuring consistency in the weights and volume standards across Nevada.

METROLOGY LABORATORY RECEIVES NVLAP CALIBRATION ACCREDITATION

The Nevada Metrology Laboratory in Sparks, Nev. received accreditation from the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Nevada Metrology Laboratory is specifically accredited in the Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Program, joining 18 other state laboratories in the U.S. NVLAP accreditation signifies that a laboratory has demonstrated it operates in accordance with NVLAP management and technical requirements pertaining to quality systems; personnel; accommodation and environment; test and calibration methods; equipment; measurement tractability; sampling; handling of test and calibration items; and test and calibration reports.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The **Metrology Laboratory** is recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for traceability of measurement standards to the national standards of mass and volume. The lab calibrates weights and volume test measures for NDA staff and industry.

The **Petroleum Testing Laboratories** in Sparks and Las Vegas test samples of motor vehicle fuels, aviation gasoline, lubricating and heating oils, and antifreeze collected in response to consumer complaints and at random from retailers across the state. Analysis is performed on the samples to confirm the product meets or exceeds performance and environmental quality standards adopted by the State Board of Agriculture.

DIVISION OF CONSUMER EQUITABILITY

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NRS

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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- 27 full-time
- 2 seasonal
- 1 contracted full-time

CONTACT



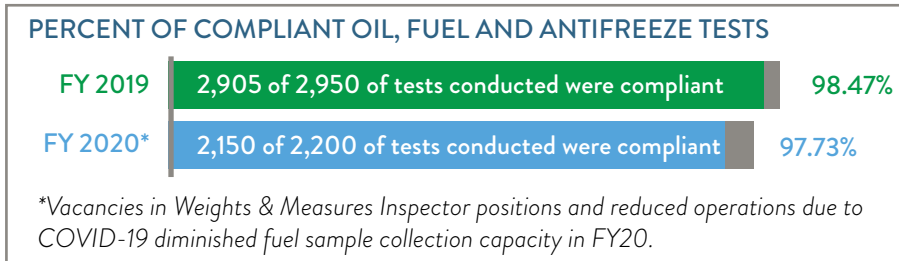
Cadence Matijevec

Administrator

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The Petroleum Technology program ensures fuel sold at retail facilities meets regulations and acts on consumer complaints, confirming compliance with quality standards.



A NOTE FROM DIVISION OF CONSUMER EQUITABILITY ADMINISTRATOR

While our operations may look different today than they did pre-COVID, the commitment of the Division of Consumer Equitability to ensure transparency and equity in Nevada's marketplace remains as strong as ever. Throughout the pandemic, our division has continued to conduct investigations in response to consumer complaints and to perform testing and inspections essential to the continuation of commerce.

Our metrology laboratories have adapted their receiving procedures to allow for customers to safely deliver and pick up their weight and volume standards through a contactless process that can be completed entirely outdoors. Our Weights and Measures inspectors continued performing field inspections while meeting social distancing and other safety protocols, including inspection of livestock scales across Nevada and inspections of retail motor vehicle fuel stations in both urban and rural communities. The skilled chemists in our petroleum laboratories continue to test fuels samples collected in the field, providing certainty that fuels sold in Nevada meet performance and environmental standards.

We remained in close contact with industry during these challenging times, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to businesses, small and large, for being flexible as we re-engineered some of our processes and procedures to ensure our community's safety.

While I dearly miss seeing my team in person on a regular basis, I am incredibly proud of how creative and innovative they have been in finding ways to perform so many of their duties remotely and ensuring that equity prevails in the Silver State.

Cadence Matijevec

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The NDA's Administration division provides oversight to the department through the director and offers global trade, communications and promotions support, fiscal services, facility maintenance, information technology services and personnel support to the rest of the department.

The Fiscal services team assists all divisions with fiscal matters including accounts payable and receivable, contracts and grant management.

- The fiscal services team updated the NDA's cost allocation model for FY22/23 ensuring allocations were justifiable and distributed fairly across the department.

The Global Trade program assists farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and food manufacturers enter and grow into the international markets through several resources such as educational seminars, federal partnerships, trade missions, market assessments and trade leads.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEVADA AGRICULTURE EXPORTS

Nevada's food and agricultural exports hit a new milestone in 2019, exporting over \$320 million in agricultural goods. The monthly trade average for the year was nearly \$27 million. Export sales in 2018 were \$309 million which makes for a 3.75% increase between 2018 and 2019.

THE TOP EXPORTS FROM NEVADA IN 2019

- Spices
- Dairy products
- Cereals
- Flour
- Beverages and spirits
- Grains and seed
- Fruits and vegetables

Food and agricultural products are Nevada's second largest export category, up from fifth largest in 2017. Nevada saw an increase in export sales in eight countries around the world including South Korea, Mexico, Japan, Columbia, Australia, Peru, Chile and Taiwan. Over the last decade, the food and agriculture sector has been economically consistent, making it a very beneficial contributor to Nevada's economy.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COMPANIES PARTICIPATING IN THE EXPORT MARKET

95:1

According to the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), there is a \$95 return to the state for every \$1 invested by agriculture companies in exporting.

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

To modernize services and interactions with customers, the NDA has adopted the use of a Customer Relations Management (CRM) system. This CRM system, adopted in 2019, has already begun to change the way we communicate with the customers the NDA serves. Implementing the CRM system is an important step in the strategic plan goals to modernize agency business processes, become customer focused, and increase economic development opportunities for Nevada's food and agriculture sector. The CRM system offers abilities to track customer interactions, optimize communication, diligently address sector needs, and better target trade and economic development opportunities for the food and agriculture sector.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

RELEVANT REGULATIONS

NAC
• 561

NRS
• 561

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

27 full-time

CONTACT



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The **Communications** team serves all divisions and industry through agricultural literacy, communication and research services, and global trade and economic development.

- The communications team has developed five communications plans to more efficiently and effectively interact with industry members in support of the goals of the strategic plan.

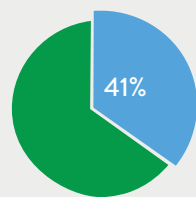
Information technology services provides technical assistance and IT expertise to all divisions, helping to ensure employees have the resources necessary to complete their jobs and serve constituents efficiently and effectively, even while working remotely.

- Improved NDA's information security program through increased monitoring and user awareness campaigns, confidentiality reports, updates to business continuity and risk mitigation plans, and implementation of KnowBe4 cyber security training and monitoring software.

UPCOMING COLLABORATIONS – WOMEN'S FARM TO FOOD ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

The NDA will partner with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation, Oregon State University Food Innovation Center, and Union Kitchen to develop a two-year project to equip female specialty crop producers in Nevada to scale up their businesses. The NASDA Foundation and the project team will help Nevada producers expand production of food products and enter new regional markets. The team will adapt the Women's Farm to Food Accelerator program to meet the needs of Nevada producers and include them in the program.

WOMEN IN SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION



According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, women make up 38% of all specialty crop producers in the U.S. In Nevada, women constitute an even larger percentage of specialty crop producers at approximately 41%.

Average farm in Nevada

1,790 acres

\$194,496 in sales



Average woman-operated farm in Nevada

1,006 acres

\$156,977 in sales

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) protects, preserves, and promotes Nevada agriculture. The NDA was established in 1915 by Chapter 561 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. The state department of agriculture as it exists today was created in 1961.

Headquartered in Sparks, Nevada, the NDA also has offices in Las Vegas and Elko. It includes the divisions of Administration, Animal Industry, Consumer Equitability, Food and Nutrition and Plant Industry. The bulk of the NDA's funding comes from fees and federal programs.

AGENCY HISTORY

The State Board of Agriculture was created by the 1885 Nevada Legislature. Chapter 268 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (later changed to NRS 561) established the State Board of Stock Commissioners in 1915, consisting of three members, all experienced stockmen, appointed by the governor. The board had control of all matters pertaining to the cattle, horse, and hog industries. Sheep were regulated by the State Board of Sheep Commissioners.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Appointed by the governor, the current Board of Agriculture is comprised of 11 community leaders who establish NDA policy and represent industry groups to provide knowledge, input background as to the activity of the department.

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