

Sept. 7, 2016 Board Update

Plant Industry Division



Staff

- Sean Gephart promoted to Agriculturist 4 (Noxious Weeds Coordinator)
- Interviewing for Agriculturist 1 position in the Nursery/Fresh Produce Market Inspection program, Agriculturist 3 (Rangeland Health Coordinator) and Agricultural Inspector III position in the Noxious Weed program.
- We are still trying to fill the Agriculturist 4 (PCO Program manager) position and will start the recruiting process to fill Sean's vacated position

Regulations

- Regulation changes for Aquaculture and Fertilizer Tonnage Reporting are still at LCB for review; we will hold a hearing once they are returned.
- At 9/7/2016 meeting requesting approval to go to workshop on proposed changes to NAC 555 and workshop approval to amend regs on industrial hemp concerning fees for altering applications.

Environmental Services

- As part of the NDA Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3), the NDA website now has a registration link for beekeepers who wish to register the location of their colonies. An additional registration step was added to the webpage to allow only pest control operators access to colony location information. This will enable licensees and certified applicators an opportunity to give advance notice to beekeepers so that colonies can be protected prior to the time a pesticide application is to take place.
- A FIFRA Section 18 request was submitted to U.S. EPA for Prevalon to control army worms on Teff.

Entomology

- Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) - Both our intrastate quarantine and federal quarantine are now in place. These quarantine Clark County for ACP and Citrus Greening (the disease ACP carries). A compliance agreement outlining the restrictions on selling and moving citrus in and out of Clark County was sent to all southern Nevada nurseries. This compliance agreement also requires nurseries to treat according to the associated treatment protocol. Most of the nurseries selling citrus have signed the compliance agreement.

Plant Pathology

- First time detection of *Phytophthora* from verbena plants in nurseries. Verbena is a host for *P. tentaculata*, a reportable pathogen. DNA sequence analysis confirmed that it was a species in the *P. citricola* complex instead of *P. tentaculata*. California Department of Food and Agriculture was consulted with this detection, and both labs came with same conclusion. Nursery in San Diego County was notified with this detection. All verbena plants in nurseries in Las Vegas/Henderson were checked and infected plants were destroyed.
- Fusarium wilt disease was detected from cannabis plants, and it was confirmed by DNA sequence. This diagnosis helped the grower to eradicate this disease from his facility.
- White rot disease was found in 2016 season survey and the infected field was quarantined for further treatment.
- Garlic rust disease was found in some garlic fields during late season. With treatment, the impact of this disease on garlic yield was minimized.

Seed Certification

- Garlic inspections have been completed for the 2016 season, 901 acres were inspected. 4,123 acres of onions were inspected this season which is 500 more acres than last season. All alfalfa and inspections for 2016 have been completed and small grains (wheat, barley, oats and triticale) inspections are still ongoing.
- Coordinative efforts involving the BLM, Department of Forestry, USFWS, NDOW, and UNR have increased and the NDA seed lab in being identified as a priority lab for native as well as state-certified seed. Native seed inspections are increasing this season and industry predicts that the number of inspections will exponentially increase over the coming years.

Pest Control Operator

- On March 1 new regulations went into effect concerning this program. Staff have been working with industry to license restricted use pesticide dealers who employ individuals that identify pests and/or make pesticide recommendations.
- Similarly, staff has begun working with individual governmental agencies to bring them into compliance with LCB File No. R093-15 which requires those agencies who do work for hire to license.

Industrial Hemp

- To date, 12 plantings have occurred throughout all regions of Nevada, however this industry is not exempt from struggles: two producers have opted to destroy crops due to poor yields, stress, early-flowering, weed growth, and pest presence and one producer's crop was destroyed by rabbits.
- All northern Nevada sites have been inspected and samples taken to test for THC content, southern Nevada sites will be inspected by the end of August. Test results are not available at this time.