



Plant Industry Division March 29, 2016
Board Update

Staff: Jennifer Schoener (Agriculturist 2) and Robert Hunsberger (Chemist 3) were hired in plant pathology and chemistry respectively. Robert Leavitt (Agriculturist 4) manager of the Pest Control Operators program retired. His as well as the Agriculturist 4 (Noxious Weeds Coordinator) and Agriculturist 3 (Rangeland Health Manager) positions are currently being recruited.

Regulations: The proposed regulations concerning industrial hemp, produce producer/vendor and pest control licensing were all approved by the LCB subcommittee and adopted.

Seed Program: The seed program has accepted 13 applications from producers for an anticipated total of 364 acres of industrial hemp to be planted this year. Payment for seed purchase was due by March 28th and we plan to place the order by the end of the week.

PCO Program: The PCO program has made great progress in moving towards going to an online/all electronic system and has manually gone through and purged nearly 30 banker boxes worth of old program related files. Remaining documents will be electronically scanned in the upcoming weeks to comply with retention schedules.

FSMA/Nursery/GAP/SCBG Program: Ashley Jeppson (Agriculturist 3) attended the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rollout training meeting last week in Orlando, FL and will start writing and submit a proposal for funding for this program for the department which will be utilized by both PI and F&N. Nevada stands to potentially receive more than two million dollars over the next five years to implement the program.

The Nursery program is developing literature and planning regulatory visits of out-of-state vendors to educate them about the new vendor certificate requirements to comply with our new regulations and FSMA rules. Staff will also spend the next year contacting growers and developing an online registration page for non-human consumption produce producers to register their products to comply with FSMA rules.