

December 12, 2018 Board Update

Animal Industry



Personnel

- Seven previously vacant positions have been filled this quarter, including hard to fill positions in Elko.

Investigations

- Enforcement staff have attended and checked contestant and stock contractor livestock at the rodeos and events happening in the Las Vegas area during December.
- The State Veterinarian and Agricultural Enforcement Officers have investigated multiple livestock neglect and abuse cases. These cases remain active investigations in conjunction with local Animal Control and Sheriff personnel.

State Veterinarian

- Dr. Goicoechea is serving on a working group that is looking into a USDA proposal to eliminate free NUES tags. This will have significant effects on livestock marketing and interstate movement of livestock.
- Work continues expanding the use of RFID Brucellosis Vaccination Tags in Nevada. Distribution concerns with these tags have been addressed and future distributions will be closely monitored.
- A continued push by the USDA to eliminate the use of RB-51 vaccine for the control of Brucella abortus is concerning. Nevada opposed a resolution calling for eliminating the need for calf-hood vaccination. Most of the current concern is over raw milk sales, something that is illegal in Nevada other than for pet food under strict guidelines.

Administration

- PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required in 12 counties across the state in the last quarter. Multiple species of predatory animals were addressed during the last quarter including coyotes, bobcats, lions, skunks, rabbits, and ravens. Employees provided public outreach to 147 individuals or businesses. Primary predators removed included 79% coyotes, 20% ravens, and 1% mountain lions. Agricultural products losses verified by employees consisted of: Sheep 61% / Cattle 1% Fowl 37% / Wildlife 1%.
- The division continues to send out periodic emails to brand inspectors offering training tips and reminders for performing inspections during the holiday season. Group trainings will resume as shipping slows.
- Division staff continue to follow up and collect past due and current Livestock Assessment Tax (Head Tax) for 2017 and 2018. Staff have collected \$241,796.55 for FY 2017 and \$223,692.71 for FY 2018 thus far.
- Estimated current Head Tax compliance: 2017 - 65% and 2018 - 60%
- Enforcement Officer's last quarter statistics tracking sheet has been provided for reference.

December 12, 2018 Board Update

Animal Industry



- During the last week of November, our new wildlife biologist trained with ADL staff in Sparks to gain experience in PCR testing and NDA laboratory procedures.
- Dr. Goicoechea and Doug Farris attended the Nevada Cattlemen's annual convention in Winnemucca, in November. NDA updates were provided at the Woolgrowers breakfast as well as other convention meetings. During the convention, Dr. Goicoechea participated in an open 2-hour panel discussion concerning changes to the current *Trichomonas* testing program for Nevada.
- The ADL was awarded a West Nile Virus and Rabies grant to help support the community and provide funding to cover the costs of testing.
- The division is currently in the process of developing and transitioning the agriculture licensing program to a digital format within the Ewell system.
- ADL staff are currently developing a program and ordering approved equipment for implementing *Trichomonas* testing at the Elko laboratory.