
Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- The Animal Industry Division continues to move forward with the recruiting process for the three Agricultural Enforcement Officer vacant positions for the Elko, Ely, and Sparks locations. The division has completed interviews of multiple applicants and is proceeding forward with the required background and personal history investigations for three selected candidates, one of each would whom would fill each location. Staff are hopeful to have all required preemployment procedures completed within the next month, which would then allow these three individuals to begin their employment with NDA. Two of the candidates will be required to attend the Nevada POST Academy in July 2020. As noted at the December BOA meeting, these current vacancies have increased the workload on current enforcement staff who have been addressing hundreds of phone calls and emails monthly that would normally be covered by all 5 positions. Additionally, enforcement staff are tasked with overseeing and assisting the states brand inspectors. This includes responding to assistance/questions requested by inspectors, as well as assisting with the training and equipment requirements of inspectors spread across the state.

Partnership activities

- **USDA Wildlife Services**
 - NDA staff continue working with USDA Wildlife Services staff in the drafting and implementation of an MOU between the two agencies. Although there was an agreement and financial plan in place previously covering portions of this partnership, an MOU that specifically details each partners role, expectations, and reporting requirements had never been in place. NDA and USDA Wildlife Services are currently operating under a signed extension of the previous financial plan during this MOU process.
- **Wild Horse Connection**
 - NDA continues to receive monthly reporting of calls addressed by Wild Horse Connection since the inception in August 2019, of the non-exclusive cooperative agreement between Wild Horse Connection and NDA for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray horses. Monthly calls to date total: August: 18; September: 37; October: 81; November: 49; December: 70; January: 29
- **American Wild Horse Campaign**
 - NDA continues to receive monthly reporting from AWHC covering the Virginia Range feral/stray horse fertility program. AWHC has reported that they administered the PZP vaccine to 395 individual mares from July 2019 through February 2020. AWHC reports with the latest monthly update they have administered the PZP vaccine to a total of 857 mares since they started darting on April 9, 2019.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program currently has 99 registered accounts as of the 2nd quarter of FY20.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - NDA's two current law enforcement officers have spent their time towards the following duties: 87 investigations; 52 traffic stops; 5 warning citations; 759 phone calls; 247 administrative hours; 2 check sites; 13 strays returned; 115 inspections; 84 training hours; 17 public service calls; 6 vehicle crashes; 15 agency assists; 1 hold order; 3 quarantines; 4 estrays.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 51,199 brand inspections for 340,501 total animals inspected since July 1, 2019. These numbers include the two public livestock auctions.
 - 4,646 brand renewal notices were mailed out in December, and the online electronic renewal program went live in mid-September. To date, the division has renewed 2,469 brands via mailed in hard copies which are then entered into the system manually, and 758 renewals via the online system. There are currently 1,368 brands that have not been renewed.
 - Staff have issued 228 new brand registrations; 252 brand transfers; and 3,944 brand registration renewals since July 1, 2019.
 - Staff administered 8 hours of new hire training to 11 new brand inspectors in November.
 - The division has received 2,531 Livestock Assessment filings for the 2019 year and 573 late assessments for the 2018 year. There are currently 2,126 delinquent filings for the 2019 year. A second notice will be sent out to these accounts in the next two months.
 - The division sent out 218 applications for 2020 Livestock Movement Permits. To date, staff have processed 128 applications for a total of 1,861 permits.
 - The division currently has 235 agriculture licenses issued for the fiscal year.
 - The Sparks office and staff have received in excess of 260 phone calls or emails relating to the Virginia Range feral/stray horses since July 1, 2019.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control
 - PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state in the last quarter. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the last quarter includes coyotes 52%, ravens 46%, and the remaining 2% included lions, red fox, striped skunks, and feral dogs.
 - Employees provided public outreach to 392 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2019. 26 samples were taken from predatory animals during this time.
 - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 37 calves; 176 chickens; 20 ducks; 5 goats; 163 sheep (adults and lambs). Additionally, 9 companion/hobby animals were injured during the reporting period.
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 10,776 procedures totaling 21,888 tests or services since the start of FY 2020.

- The ADL completed installation of two pieces of automation that will help support workflow efficiencies. These include the Fisher Accuwash for EIA ELISA testing and the KingFisher Flex Purification system to help support extraction automation for both Trichomoniasis and arboviral testing. The ADL Supervisor has also placed an order for a KingFisher Flex to support the Elko, NV laboratory. Staff plan to move forward with establishing molecular and EIA testing at this location.
- ADL staff anticipate having verification data complete on extraction studies as well as Trichomoniasis pooling studies by April 2020. Staff are currently reviewing pricing, forms, and cost per test as we move forward with this direction.
- ADL staff were invited to send one participant to the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (PacVec) in southern California in February 2020. NDA's Entomologist, Jeff Knight, will be attending. This trip is funded by PacVec. The ADL Supervisor, Laura Morrow, presented at the Vector Week CDC in Fort Collins, Colorado, the week of February 24, 2020. This trip is fully funded under the CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant.

Industry Impact

- Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Electronic Identification (EID) Program
 - This program falls under the Veterinary Medical Services program and is largely funded through USDA/APHIS grants. This program is an essential function within the state's responsibility to accurately and quickly identify and perform a traceback in the event of a diseased animal or outbreak. Although the department has largely benefited from the access to the current electronic brands program, EID tags are the next step in effectively protecting public safety and commerce.
 - With the support of USDA, NDA has obtained approximately 4,000 EID Brucellosis official calfhood vaccination (OCV) tags, which are offered to producers across the state free of charge. Any producer who is not currently using EIDs may have their herd veterinarian make a request to the department for the specific number of tags needed for a producer, and NDA will then supply the herd veterinarian with the EID tags for application to the animals. Additionally, NDA was recently notified that USDA will be supplying Nevada with approximately 49,000 additional EID tags for future distribution to producers. These tags will be a replacement for the previously supplied metal OCV tags supplied by USDA.
 - Through the USDA grants process, NDA has also obtained 4 mountable panel readers for EID tags, 7 handheld wand readers, and 4 handheld mobile data computers for capturing the data collected with the wand readers. NDA's direction is to work with local public livestock auctions to install the panel readers at their locations to record data for animals going through their facilities with EID tags. Additionally, NDA will work to distribute the wand readers to brand inspectors and Agricultural Enforcement Officers to utilize during brand inspections of EID cattle. NDA will also pursue options of loaning both types of readers to producers using EID tags within the state, so that they may be utilized for their own personal tracking and record keeping programs.
 - Under the USDA, ADT grant, NDA was able to employ a part time ADT Coordinator, working out of the Sparks office. This staff member is currently

assisting the division with the implementation of the program to seek out the best uses and placements of the reading devices. The ADT Coordinator will also be implementing a training program for NDA staff and producers on how to operate and best utilize the readers and equipment. Additionally, the ADT Coordinator is tasked with the associated data entry and tracking of devices and tags, as well as other associated data tracking within the ADT program.

- It should also be noted that USDA had previously announced a mandatory change from the current free metal OCV tags to EID OCV tags for April of 2020. This change would have placed the cost of the new EID OCV tags (approximately \$1.75 each), onto the producers. At this time, the implementation of this direction has been suspended until further notice.
- As this program progresses, staff believe that it will aid the department in providing the most accurate and current data available for completing animal traces, as well as providing Nevada's livestock producers with the access to EID tags and equipment that they may not be able to purchase individually. To date, the division has distributed approximately 2,500 OCV EID tags to producers, with most of these tags being issued in the last 12 months. As more producers are learning of this program, the interest appears to be increasing.