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## Staff

With two retirements in the works in Las Vegas, we have moved Kathleen Bednarz from the front desk and trained her to do the licensing functions for PCO. We have hired a full-time temp through Manpower to cover the front desk and that is working very well. After discussion with Jim, we hired a new Ag Inspector in Las Vegas. He has experience in pesticides and nursery and we think he is going to be extremely helpful as we transition the PI staff in the southern headquarters.

In the north, Mary Hossay retired in July. Ruth Tietjen has taken over the licensing functions in Sparks and we hired Meghan Zich for the Administrative Assistant III position.

## Regulations

We have several changes to the Nevada Administrative Code. They are itemized on the agenda so we will not cover them here.

## Plant Pathology

- The Plant Pathology Lab detected two destructive diseases on industrial hemp crops in Nevada. One is diagnosed as *Pythium* crown rot and another is *Fusarium* wilt. In one hemp field, *Pythium* crown rot has caused significant mortality of hemp plants. This is the second detection of this disease in the United State since it was first reported in a research plot in Indiana in June, 2017. An action plan to manage *Pythium* crown rot was prescribed to the grower.
- The Nematology lab has completed analyses of approximately 1,500 pounds of garlic samples for stem and bulb nematode, a regulated organism for certified garlic seed. All samples tested negative.
- Two garlic fields were found to be infected with white rot disease in the 2017 season. Infected areas of both fields are under quarantine.
- The Plant Pathology Program has completed FFY15 *Phytophthora ramorum* nursery survey, FFY16 cyst nematode survey, and FFY 16 CAPS disease survey. All survey data were uploaded into the USDA national database.

## Environmental Services

- Environmental Services staff members are conducting compliance visits at recently opened marijuana cultivation facilities statewide. In addition to this, staff attended meetings of the Recreational (Adult) Marijuana Task Force and a meeting of Industrial Hemp growers. The list of approved pesticide products which are not illegal to apply to industrial hemp, has been completed. A new protocol was established to help develop

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### Plant Division

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and revise the NDA list of pesticide active ingredients which are not illegal to apply in indoor cannabis cultivation facilities at the ILAC meeting on April 5th. The medical marijuana pesticide list was updated and published on January 8. U.S. EPA denied 4 FIFRA 24c applications, submitted by Nevada, for use on medical marijuana.

- On June 17, staff worked at the NDA Booth located on the UNR campus for a Pollinator Week event. Information was distributed on the NDA Pollinator Protection Plan and questions were addressed related to the use of pesticides.
- Collected approximately 3,000 lbs. pounds of pesticide waste this quarter between Reno and Las Vegas.
- Conducted a pesticide waste collection event with Clean Harbors Environmental Services at Rail City Garden Center (2,000 lbs. collected).
- A total of 16 surface and groundwater samples were collected this quarter and submitted to the NDA pesticide laboratory for pesticide residue analysis. A surface water sampling project was conducted with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) along the Virgin and Muddy Rivers during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Strychnine paste for control of pocket gopher and ground squirrels was formulated to meet grower's needs on 4/27/2017.

### FSMA, PSR updates

- Received year 2 award funding from FDA in July 2017 in the amount of \$384,644. Funding was released based on FDA approval of Nevada's produce safety rule strategic plan, jurisdictional assessment, and annual report.
- Issued survey to producers on education and outreach preferences for the produce safety education program anticipated to begin December 2017.
- Provided FDA with tours of produce production in Fallon and Yerington. This resulted in a secondary FDA visit consisting of representatives involved in creating irrigation water standards. They were interested in assessing how irrigation decisions are made by the Walker River Irrigation District, especially during peak precipitation years, and how this can create a shift in standard water sources from ground to open water sources. Yerington's irrigation system and impacts on growers will be considered as national irrigation water standards are developed to protect public safety but also ensure the standards are feasible for growers.
- FSMA staff have been participating on the farm inventory and inspectional approach sub-groups with state partners. Sub-group goals are to develop a comprehensive system for capturing relevant Nevada farm information on FSMA, PSR compliance and to develop an inspection/enforcement program that is thorough and fairly uniform from state-to-state.

### **Nursery**

- During the spring compliance inspection, samples collected from *Camellia* plants and one water source were confirmed positive for *Phytophthora ramorum* on June 9, 2017. 35 Nevada nurseries were identified as receiving shipments for *Camellia* plants and have since been contacted to identify existing stock and to take samples and stop sale of plants exposed.
- Nick Bieser in the Las Vegas office has been upgraded to an Agriculturist III, as he has taken on additional nursery coordination duties and begun supervising a nursery inspector in the Sparks office.

### **Export Program**

- Diego Lozada has been communicating with APHIS-PPQ to request approval to train 4 Plant Industry staff to perform inspections
- Onion Inspection staff will begin onion shipping point training the first week of September
- Amy Loftus with APHIS-PPQ (Austin, TX) will be in Reno again this fall for a Yerington tour
- Certificates issued for export are up +23% from FY16 to FY17.

### **Producer and Produce Vendor Certificate**

- PI staff were notified that Washoe County Health has been requiring a sampling permit (typically issued for cut produce sampling and costs \$256) for those selling eggs at farmers market. We requested specific NRS/NAC that grants them the authority to require a sampling permit for egg producers, and we have not received anything concrete in return other than requirements covered by the producer certificate. We challenged the authority through evaluating NRS 446 and 576 and have requested they no longer enforce this permit as it will quickly eliminate any egg producers from selling at markets. They have notified their attorneys of the concern and they are evaluating the current authority and need for this permit in relation to egg producers.
- ProCert registration was up almost +30% from FY16 to FY17.
- ProVend registration is going well – most of the Produce Vendors in the North are in compliance.

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**Noxious Weeds**

- After sending three “Requests for Proposals” totaling \$43,770 to multiple conservation and weed management associations across the state, has awarded the funding to three proposed weed control projects.
- NDA’s seed specialist, noxious weeds, and pesticide enforcement staff provided multiple training presentations to attendees of UNCE’s “Weed Warriors” seminar in Reno. Training seminars consisted of weed laws, identification, control, pesticides safety, and revegetation.
- The Rangeland Health Program, in association with the seed program, are developing training models to educate interested producers about the benefits of collecting and producing native seed. The training consists of:
  - Production Fact Sheets
  - Native Plant “workhorse” Species Information Sheets
  - Nevada Native Seed Association
- The Noxious weeds program received a total of twelve (12) complaints through the NDA Notification System prompting a total of twenty-two (22) phase 1 letters be sent.
- As part of the USFS grant agreement, NDA noxious weeds staff performed ten biological control releases using the Russian Knapweed Gall Midge (*Jaapiella ivannikovi*). The agents were released on pre-identified sites of Russian Knapweed. Just prior to releases monitoring transects were established and data collected. The transects will be monitored annually to verify density reduction.
- Noxious Weeds Program hired a seasonal agriculturist inspector II, Andrea Moe. Since her employment, a total of eleven (11) weed-free-forage inspections have been conducted, and nine (9) weed-free-gravel inspections.
- Rangeland staff continue to cooperate with the Governor supported Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network (CoCoRAHs) by establishing rain gauges across Northern Nevada. For this quarter a total of four (4) sites have been established. The four sites were established in:
  - Jackpot
  - Owyhee
  - Elko
  - Wells
- Rangeland staff have begun the finale phase in completing the Rangeland App and have identified a hard rollout date of November 17<sup>th</sup>. Once available, the rangeland staff will collaborate with other NDA program staff in promotion and educating the public on its use.
- Seed inspection staff have begun traditional crop inspections related to alfalfa seed. In evaluating 2016 data, an increase of 300+ acres has been identified for 2017. For 2017 applications for seed crop certification are as follows:
  - Alfalfa: 2576 acres

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- Wheat: 130 acres
- Barley: 138 acres
- Triticale: 35 acres
- Oats: 38 acres
- During the second quarter, the GIS specialist assisted NDA and other government personnel by creating maps utilizing data collected within EDDmaps or other GPS technologies. The maps created were for:
  - Washoe area parcel maps
  - Cold Springs Knapweed
  - USFS Eddmaps Data
  - CAPS grant maps ( multiple )
  - Truckee EDDmaps data
  - Union Pacific Infestation Maps