

March 14, 2018 Board Update

Animal Industry



Personnel

- During the week of March 5th, 2018, all sworn positions completed their semi-annual POST mandated training as well as attended the 2018 Western States Livestock Investigators Conference.
- Enforcement Officer's last quarter statistics tracking sheet has been provided for reference.
- Essential Functions and the job description has been completed for the Elko Biologist position. We are hopeful to have this recruitment open soon and the position will be filled this spring.
- Effective January 25th, 2018, the Elko office Brand's Program Officer I retired from the position. Sidney Wintermote is currently serving as the interim Brands Program Officer and doing a great job in keeping the program operating smoothly as well as streamlining many office processes that reduce the workload on staff and benefit the industry.
- Effective January 25th, 2018, the Elko office Administrative Assistant resigned from the position.
- We have hired Lori Elliott as a Manpower contract employee to fill the Elko administrative assistant position while we begin the recruiting process. Lori has done an amazing job since coming to us and has been a great asset processing brand inspector timesheets and paperwork. Lori will be transferring to the full-time state AAI Elko office position in April.
- On December 3rd, 2017, we terminated employment with the recently hired Elko Enforcement Officer I. This position is currently advertised, and we are accepting new applications. We are in the process of reviewing some of the applications currently and will be proceeding with the next step in the hiring process once a suitable candidate can be selected.

Investigations

- We are still awaiting Elko County's determination on prosecuting the Mustang Monument case.
- This has been an extremely busy quarter for enforcement staff as the department has gathered and advertised approximately 15 estray animals across the state. Enforcement staff have also have been tasked with responding to and/or resolving multiple horse ownership disputes across the state. During these ownership investigations, enforcement staff have discovered many horses that were either transported into the state without health or proper ownership documentation. Corrective action and compliance has been completed by most currently, notwithstanding some current investigations.

March 14, 2018 Board Update

Animal Industry



- Two premises having illegal cervidae remain under hold. Finding a location outside of our state for these animals has proven to be difficult for the owners. The cervidae remain under hold and no animal movement has occurred, nor is it allowed within the state.
- The State Veterinarian continues to work with Clark County and Las Vegas Animal Control regarding exotic animal importation and welfare. While welfare falls under USDA Animal Care for exhibition exotic animals, we are seeing an increase in exotic animals being moved into southern Nevada, often under poor conditions and in poor health. The office of the State Veterinarian is continuing to evaluate multiple situations and we will continue to work with southern Nevada officials and develop a better plan for dealing with this increasing problem.
- On February 13th, 2018, the State Veterinarian was notified by USDA authorities that a horse that had been exposed to Equine Infectious Anemia was being released from the Mexican border. Dr. Goicoechea contacted USDA border staff and could determine where the horse was going and issued an immediate hold on the property. Enforcement Officer Raul Godinez contacted the owner at the location in Las Vegas and placed the animal under hold acting on the authority of the State Veterinarian. The horse will be tested for EIA later this month and appropriate action taken based on testing results.
- The Animal Disease Laboratory is assisting with testing of feral rabbits/bunnies in the Las Vegas area. The testing is requested to help ensure that there is not an immediate threat to public health from zoonotic disease. It is estimated there are between 800 and 1200 bunnies on one location in Las Vegas.
- A case of Marek's disease was reported to the office of the State Veterinarian on February 26, 2018. This is not a reportable disease in Nevada, but based on the potential impacts to Las Vegas poultry producers, an epidemiologic study is ongoing at the time of this report.
- February was an active month for trichomoniasis testing in Nevada. Three positive herds were identified and another 16 contact operations were evaluated as part of epidemiologic studies. Most of these operations have tested at the time of this report.
- Dr. Goicoechea and Doug Farris both attended the Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) Board of Directors meeting in Fallon on February 16th, 2018. During this meeting, the NCA Board requested that NDA staff begin researching and evaluating a plan to implement mandatory Trichomoniasis testing for the state.

Administration

- We hope to complete the full implementation of the electronic brand inspection program this year. This will provide that all Brand Inspectors are transferred to the digital system.
- Department staff completed the development and launching of the new computer program and new triplicate movement permits. Since January 2018, our division has generated and issued over 3,300 of the new movement permits. We have received a lot of

March 14, 2018 Board Update

Animal Industry



positive feedback from the industry over these new permits and are very appreciative of all the work our staff put towards updating an old antiquated program. The employee hours associated with printing these new permits were extensive and department staff are continuing to look at an updated and new computer generating and tracking system for movement permits that may eventually replace the paper movement permit program.

- On October 25, 2017, the department terminated the Virginia range cooperative agreement with American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign for failure to complete all aspects of the management plan.
- On January 18th and 19th, 2018, we performed a count of VRE horses using a helicopter and with the assistance of one of BLM's horse counters. The final count attained after 2 days of flying the Virginia Range area was 2,951 horses.
- Following the December Board of Agriculture meeting and decision to transfer all VRE horses to a non-profit animal advocate group, NDA staff have composed the RFP which was offered to the public on January 30th, 2018. The proposal submission deadline is set for no later than April 16th, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. The transfer of ownership is scheduled on or about May 15th, 2018.
- Brand Inspectors and Enforcement Officers combined completed approximately 13,787 brand inspections on approximately 390,965 animals for the 2017 year.
- For comparison, the inspections completed for the 2016 year equal approximately 12,781 inspections with an approximate total of 392,104 animals inspected. The above difference in inspections and head inspected can be attributed to more inspectors transitioning to the electronic brands system. This allows for more accurate tracking and more closely meeting our animal disease traceability requirements.
- The numbers above do not include animals inspected at the two Fallon auction yards or some of the inspections completed by inspectors still using the paper inspection platform. We are not currently able to track the number of livestock inspected for the above cases without assigning staff to hand enter all these inspections. This is a very labor-intensive project that will require hundreds of staff hours to complete the data entry.
- Animal Industry staff are currently working to build budgets for the next biennium.