

March 14, 2018 Board Updates

Plant Industry Division



Staff

- 1) Las Vegas
 - We hired Raymond Saliga to fill the Agriculturist III position under the direction of Ron Balsamo.
 - We are currently in the process of recruiting for another Agriculturist III position.
- 2) Sparks
 - We are in the process of filling the Agriculturist II position for the Food Safety Program under the supervision of Ashley Jeppson.
 - We are also in the process of fulfilling 4 of our seasonal positions in Entomology.
- 3) Elko
 - We are currently in the processes of recruiting for the Conservation Staff Specialist II under the direction of Meghan Brown

Regulations

Action Items:

- 1) Update on adoption of amendments to NAC Chapter 587 relating to the general standards for certification of seed as adopted by the Department and NAC 587.931 to 587.937, inclusive, governing the standards for the certification of industrial hemp seed.
 - a) R066-17
 - Workshop held November 7, 2017. No changes were made.
 - Hearing Held December 20, 2017
 - **Request for Director Approval

Informational:

- 2) Update on administrative amendments to NAC Chapter 576 relating to certified producer's certificates (**R# not assigned at this time**)
 - Waiting for Draft Language from LCB
- 3) Update on adoption of amendments to NAC Chapter 557, relating to
 - a) R065-17 Hemp fee clarification
 - Sent and waiting for Final Approval/adoption from LCB
 - b) R155-16 Pesticides for industrial hemp.
 - Sent and waiting for Final Approval/adoption from LCB
 - c) R003-18 Enact SB 396, a bill revising provisions relating to the sale of industrial hemp
 - Workshop held for November 29, 2017
 - Second workshop scheduled for March 3, 2018 due to changes in language, analytical changes, and registration fees.
- 4) Update on administrative amendments to NAC Chapter 555
 - a) R006-17 Relating to the control of insects, pests, and noxious weeds
 - ADOPTED
 - b) R154-17 Relating to pesticide regulation; labeling of service containers/application devices; labeling requirements. NAC revisions due

March 14, 2018 Board Updates

Plant Industry Division

to the 2017 passage of AB-32. As well as, modification to the C.E.U. Program.

- Workshop held on December 8, 2017
 - Waiting for Draft Language from LCB
- c) R152-17 Relating to Noxious Weeds (list)
 - Workshop Scheduled for December 14, 2017
 - Hearing scheduled for March 23, 2018
- d) R156-16 Relating to seed law, specific to pesticide use on seed
 - ADOPTED

Program Highlights

- The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program for 2018 has been released. Letters of Intent are due in March and full applications are due in April.
- Trainings have started across the state on the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.
- Drought Initiative funding has been awarded to 11 different producers for a total of \$494,215.
- The Sage Grouse Habitat Improvements grant have been awarded to 4 entities in Ely, Paradise Valley (2), and Walker Lake.
- The plant pathology lab has found a fungal species from an Aleppo pine tree showing stem canker and dieback symptoms. The fungus is being studied to determine its identity through DNA barcoding and a possible association with other Aleppo pine trees with similar symptoms in Southern Nevada.
- The new Gas Chromatograph Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer will be operational by the end of March 2018. This equipment will be used to search for pesticides in the various matrices (plant materials, soil, etc.) by separating compounds and detecting their masses.
- 40 entomology specimens were submitted for identification and the entomology staff has been completing various outreach and education projects including six lectures, one hands-on workshop and manning an informational booth at two events.

Collaborations

- Working on communication channels with the California Department of Food and Agriculture regarding new language in import and export permits that will affect Nevada based food distribution companies.
- Collaborated with Nevada Department of Transportation officials in developing a weed migration plan template for contractors to use during the bid process.
- Met with US Forest Service officials to identify pathways to future collaboration while addressing wild horses, noxious weed control, and data collection using the Range App and EDDmaps system.
- Met with Nevada Department of Wildlife to discuss future collaborative efforts on location mapping to help with noxious weed control, revegetation efforts and building native seed stock in the state.