

September 5, 2018 Board Update

Animal Industry



Investigations

- Enforcement staff have attended and checked contestant animals for proper health paperwork that were participating in a barrel racing event in Winnemucca, as well as two horse racing meets taking place in Ely and Elko this last quarter.
- A horse exposed to Equine Infectious Anemia prior to being released from the Mexican border was tested by Dr. Goicoechea and was negative. The horse was released from quarantine and no further action is needed.
- Dr. Goicoechea traveled to Las Vegas in August to assist USDA FSIS in inspecting poultry slaughter facilities after reports of sick birds and adulterated products were received by USDA FSIS. No significant animal health concerns were noted. Ongoing cooperation between the State Veterinarian's office FSIS is expected in the future.

Administration

- PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required in 12 counties across the state for the months of May, June, and July. Multiple species of predatory animals were addressed during the last quarter including coyotes, bobcats, lions, skunks, rabbits, and ravens. Employees provided public outreach to 85 individuals or businesses. Primary predators included 55% coyotes, 28% ravens, and 17% mountain lions. Agricultural products losses, verified, and addressed by employees consisted of: Sheep 58% / Cattle 18% / Field crops & property 9% / Fowl 6% / Goats 3% / Horses 3% / Wildlife 3%.
- On August 22, Animal Industry staff held a brand inspector training/refreshers course at the Elko office. This training was offered to all brand inspectors located within this district. A total of 19 brand inspectors were invited to attend the training and we had 16 in attendance. The feedback and interaction received from brand inspectors during the training was positive.
- The division will continue to send out periodic emails to brand inspectors offering training tips and suggestions for the electronic system and on how to complete certain inspection certificates in the required format.
- In June/July, division staff collected Livestock Assessment Tax (Head Tax) of delinquent 2017 accounts and current 2018 accounts.
- Estimated current Head Tax compliance:
 - 2017 – 447 accounts remain unpaid (out of approximately 5,300 notified) = 8.4% unpaid (approx.)
 - We started with over 33% unpaid so with what's been paid today, we have increased 2017 compliance by 74.5%.
 - 2018 – 953 accounts remain unpaid, (out of approximately 5,600 notified) = 17.1% unpaid (approx.)

We are making progress, but this will be a continued process of ensuring noncompliant livestock owners become compliant. Elko staff have initiated a tracking system for the

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Livestock Assessment program. This ensures that livestock owners who are not current in their livestock assessments will not be provided brand inspections. In addition, if a livestock owner holds a registered brand it will be suspended until payment is received.

- Enforcement Officer's last quarter statistics tracking sheet has been provided for reference.
- In July, Enforcement Officer's Justin Ely and Raul Godinez both attended the International Livestock Investigators conference in Bend Oregon.
- Animal Disease Lab staff have been extremely busy with testing for West Nile Virus and rabies.
- Animal Industry staff have completed compiling and verifying our FY20 & FY21 budget builds with fiscal staff for the next biennium. These budgets were submitted at the end of August.