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## Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
  - NDA hired Dr. Amy Mitchell, DVM, as Nevada State Veterinarian.
  - The Animal Industry Division is happy to report that we have successfully filled two of our three vacant Agricultural Enforcement Officer (AEO) positions. Ian Knight accepted our offer for the AEO III position and is based out of the Sparks office. Dalton Smith accepted our offer for the Elko AEO I position and will be attending the Nevada POST academy in July to obtain his Category 1 POST certificate. A candidate for the Ely AEO 1 position has been identified and is currently completing the last phase of the background investigation process. Staff are hopeful to have all required preemployment procedures completed within the next month and will then be able to offer the position. This candidate will also be required to attend the Nevada POST academy in July.
  - NDA was issued a Letter of Intent following the 2019 Legislative session concerning the financial instability of Budget Account 4546, Livestock Inspection. Since receiving the Letter of Intent, NDA staff have created a business plan to address specific staffing positions including full-time state employees, as well as intermittent state employees, to carry out the brand inspection program functions. Additionally, the business plan addresses inspection program upgrades to an electronic public livestock auction software program. With the building of the new business plan for the Livestock Inspection program, staff also identified revenue generating fees within the program that will require updating and increases that will support the operating expenditures the program generates on an annual basis. The new business plan will ensure that the fee-based program cost effectively carries out the essential functions it is intended to while remaining fiscally sound.
- Partnership activities
  - USDA Wildlife Services
    - USDA Wildlife Services has a new Nevada State Director, Mark Ono. NDA staff have met with Mr. Ono to resume previous discussions on the drafting and implementation of a MOU between the two agencies. NDA and USDA Wildlife Services are currently operating under a signed extension of the previous financial plan during this MOU process.
  - USDA/APHIS
    - NDA staff completed and submitted the Nevada ADT Road Map to USDA in April. Nevada's ADT Road Map had not been updated since 2015.
    - Staff completed and submitted applications for the 2020 USDA/APHIS ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements, which were accepted and approved by USDA.

- Wild Horse Connection
  - NDA continues to receive monthly reporting of calls addressed by Wild Horse Connection since its 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; February: 27; March: 41; April: 58.
- American Wild Horse Campaign
  - NDA and AWHC signed a second-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement on April 29, 2020. NDA continues to receive monthly reporting from AWHC covering the Virginia Range feral/stray horse fertility program. AWHC submitted in their annual report that they have administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 1,048 mares since they started darting on April 9, 2019. AWHC database has been updated to include 3,644 individually identified horses. Two new areas have been approved for fertility control and include Lockwood (Waste Management) and BLM properties within Fernley.

### **Program Updates**

- Commercial Feed
  - This program currently has 102 registered accounts as of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY20.
- Livestock Enforcement
  - NDA's three law enforcement officers have dedicated their time towards the following duties: 101 investigations; 52 traffic stops; 10 warnings; 1,147 phone calls; 334 administrative hours; 2 check sites; 13 strays returned; 134 inspections; 130 training hours; 17 public service calls; 6 vehicle crashes; 15 agency assists; 2 hold orders; 3 quarantines; and 7 strays.
- Livestock Identification
  - Staff have completed 63,115 brand inspections for 394,179 total animals inspected since July 1, 2019. These numbers include the two public livestock auctions.
  - 4,646 brand renewal notices were mailed out in October. The online electronic renewal program went live in mid-September. To date, the division has renewed 3,106 brands. There are currently 1,540 brands that have not been renewed.
  - Staff have issued 312 new brand registrations and 273 brand transfers since July 1, 2019.
  - Staff administered 8 hours of new hire training to 11 new brand inspectors in November.
  - The division has received 2,735 Livestock Assessment filings for 2019 and 3,936 late assessments for 2018. There are currently 671 delinquent filings for 2018 and 1,872 delinquent filings for 2019. 2020 notices were sent out in mid-May.
  - The division sent out 218 applications for 2020 Livestock Movement Permits. To date, staff have processed 159 applications for a total of 2,492 permits.
  - The division currently has 242 agriculture licenses issued for the fiscal year.
  - The Sparks office and staff have received more than 350 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 43%, ravens 45%, and the remaining 12% included European starlings (primarily) and lions.
  - Employees provided public outreach to 771 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2019. 30 samples were taken from predatory animals during this time.
  - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 59 calves; 180 chickens; 20 ducks; 5 goats; 261 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 18,394 procedures totaling 26,631 tests or services since the start of FY 2020.
  - Staff have submitted a request to reclassify the Elko Biologist position to a Microbiologist II position. This reclassification would allow for the reopening of the Elko laboratory and increased testing abilities.

## **Industry Impact**

- **COVID-19**
  - Staff continue to work and support the programs and industries we serve. Animal Industry staff have kept our offices and laboratory open and operating, while other staff have been working remotely from home and in the field, ensuring that we are providing services to the essential programs we serve.
  - PARC staff continued performing their essential functions and providing livestock protection with the benefit of natural social distancing in the field. Brand inspectors continued providing services to livestock owners across the state. Administrative staff for livestock inspection worked continually, answering calls and emails, processing completed brand inspections, billing, processing brand inspector time sheets, collecting assessments, and processing brand registrations. Law enforcement staff worked remotely from home and in the field completing biennial budget requests, investigating illegal livestock entry, failure to pay assessments, estray livestock, and reported missing livestock.
  - Daily business operating processes continue to be performed with staff working remotely and staggered scheduling in-office work.
  - CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant has been impacted by COVID-19 funding redirection. The laboratory will have limited funds to cover West Nile Virus testing through July 2021. The ELC will advise if any additional funds become available.
  - NDA received approval during the last Legislative session to purchase a KingFisher Flex to support the Elko laboratory. Due to COVID-19, the order has been canceled to support state budgetary savings. Staff have submitted a new request for this equipment next biennium.
  - USDA has indicated that official Equine Infectious Anemia courses will most likely be canceled this year due to COVID-19, further impacting the necessary technical training for the Elko laboratory staff position.

- The ADL will resume verification and T. foetus pooling studies in June 2020. Staff are currently reviewing pricing, forms, and cost per test as we move in this direction.
- NDA's ADL is helping to increase the state's capacity to test humans for COVID-19 by loaning the KingFisher Flex extraction instrument as well as 2 thermocyclers to the University Medical Center (UMC) of Southern Nevada. This loan agreement is through May 2020.
- The ADL has dealt with reagent backorders related to COVID-19. As a result, the laboratory rapidly validated an alternate extraction reagent for current T. foetus testing.