

## December 2020 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division



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#### Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
  - Dalton Smith, NDA Elko AEO I staff member, completed and graduated the Nevada POST academy on November 12. Officer Smith will now complete the field training program with NDA's certified Field Training Officer staff before being released to work independently. Filling of the Ely AEO II position remains on hold through FY21 due to general fund budget constraints related to COVID-19.
- Partnership activities
  - USDA Wildlife Services
    - NDA and USDA Wildlife Services have signed and are operating from a current MOU and financial plan between the two agencies.
  - USDA/APHIS
    - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA/APHIS in securing and issuing additional EID tags, tag applicators and scanning wands to issue to producers and veterinarians in furthering Nevada's ADT plan.
  - First quarter updates were completed and submitted to the USDA. NDA Expects spending shortfalls due to COVID-19.
  - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
    - NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2020, for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray horses. Monthly calls to date total: July: 53; August: 121; September: 108; October 97. These numbers represent 379 calls addressed during FY21.
  - American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
    - NDA and AWHC second-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement is valid through May 1, 2021. NDA continues to receive monthly reporting from AWHC covering the Virginia Range feral/stray horse fertility program. Monthly reporting shows that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 540 individual mares treated with 552 doses (130 doses given as a primer and 422 doses as a booster) for FY21. The AWHC database has been updated to include 4,565 individually identified horses for the Virginia Range area.

#### Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
  - This program currently has 292 registered and active accounts for FY21.
- Livestock Enforcement
  - NDA's three law enforcement officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY21: 18 investigations; 103 traffic stops; 36 warnings – 17 livestock/brand, 19 animal health; 782 phone calls; 150 administrative hours; 2 check sites; 6 strays; 6 estrays; 98 brand inspections; 45 transit inspections; 15

training hours; 2 VRE responses; 2 livestock in roadway responses; 5 hwy. kills – 1 horse, 4 cattle; 21 agency assists; 3 citations (2 livestock/brand, 1 animal health)

- Livestock Identification
  - Staff have completed 6,535 brand inspections for 219,693 total animals, including the public livestock auctions. Brand inspection staff have worked 6,037 hours and driven 129,059 miles for inspections since July 1, 2020.
  - Since July 1, 2020 division staff have renewed 115 brands; approved 74 new brand applications (111 pending) and transferred 24 brands.
  - Staff has received a total of 2,411 livestock assessment filings for 2020.
  - Staff has received 2,316 livestock assessment filings since 7/1/2020.
  - Staff has received 141 late livestock assessment filings for 2019 since 7/1/2020.
  - Staff has received 15 late livestock assessment filings for 2018 since 7/1/2020.
  - Currently 1,777 unpaid 2020 livestock assessment filing accounts.
  - Staff have issued 2,775 livestock movement permits.
  - 2021 livestock movement permit applications are in process of being mailed out to 193 producers.
  - The division currently has 187 agriculture licenses issued for FY21.
  - The Sparks office and staff have received more than 184 phone calls or emails relating to the Virginia Range feral/stray horses since July 1, 2020.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control
  - PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout the fiscal year. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 85%, ravens 10%, with the remaining 5% including feral swine, lions, striped skunks, badgers and bobcats.
  - Employees provided public outreach to 324 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2020. 10 samples were taken from predatory animals during this time.
  - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 1 calf; 52 chickens; 12 ducks; 12 turkeys; 2 goats; 216 sheep (adults and lambs) and 10 acres of alfalfa. Additionally, 7 companion/hobby animals were killed during the reporting period.
- Veterinary Medical Services
  - The State Veterinarian continues to work in coordination with USDA/APHIS VS on livestock investigations and RHDV2 vaccination approvals and entry requirements.
  - VMS staff worked in coordination with industry partners and local jurisdictions regarding a recent, aberrant rabies detection in a fox in Clark County. This event was significant in that the last case rabies in a terrestrial mammal was in 2014.
  - With the rabies detection case noted above, the CDC has asked NDA to participate in sequencing any other rabies-positive terrestrial mammal. This project will also support improving CDC's variant typing and enlarging their library to include more rabies variants from the Southwest. This project will continue through the next quarter.
  - The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 3,441 procedures totaling 14,614 tests or services since the start of FY21.

- Beginning Dec. 1, 2020, the ADL, located at Sparks NDA headquarters, will be offering pooled testing for trichomoniasis. Samples will still need to be submitted individually, but upon request, up to five individual samples from healthy herds will be pooled for testing at the laboratory. Pooled testing results will also be accepted for interstate travel from other states.
- Dairy and Processing
  - All inspection frequency requirements were met for the dairy and meat and poultry programs. Milk and water samples were collected and exceeded minimum frequency requirements.
  - Inspection staff conducted 28 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections and 62 dairy farm inspections for FY21.
  - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 12 equipment tests were conducted this quarter. 37 total equipment tests conducted for FY21.
  - 26 warning and compliance notifications were issued for FY21.
  - 6 complaints have been received and investigated in FY21.
  - Meat and Poultry program inspectors conducted 16 facility inspections. 1 new facility was permitted in FY21.
  - Inspection staff have collected 389 milk samples and 102 water samples for FY21.
  - Inspection staff have collected 500 brucellosis samples.
  - Inspection staff evaluated 18 milk plant samplers and 24 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers in FY21.
  - Inspection staff conducted 2 farm ratings, 4 single service ratings and 2 lab evaluations in FY21.
  - In September, two additional personnel from the Animal Disease Laboratory participated in the Grade “A” Dairy 2020 FDA Raw Milk Proficiency Program, which will support the department with backup and additional resources.
  - The program staff submitted a grant application for Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Milk and Shellfish Grant funding for 2021.
  - Staff conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 797 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
  - Audit staff have completed 31 investigative, remittance and close-out audits to date for FY21.
  - Annual distribution licensing renewals have been sent out to the 220 licensee accounts currently on record. All expire effective December 31, 2020.
  - Continued project and efforts to identify unregistered distributors importing regulated dairy products into Nevada is a continuing priority for Audit Services.

### **Industry Impact**

- Animal Industry Division Animal Entry Requirements and Compliance
  - Enforcing of Nevada’s animal entry requirements and closely monitoring animal movement throughout the state and nation have become even more important, not only due to SARS-CoV-2, but also in light of the rise of foreign animal diseases overseas and the risks they pose to our industry and the safety of the food supply.
  - Regular communication with State Animal Health Officials (SAHO) and industry partners across the country, as well as the CDC, remains pivotal to assessing the risks to livestock, processing plant safety and transmission among those that work

closely with exposed animals. The State Veterinarian continues to consult with Nevada veterinarians as well as other SAHOs regarding testing of domestic animals exposed to the virus and that data is used to monitor the ongoing status of SARS-CoV2 in animals. This routine sharing of information has proven essential in continued learning about the virus and its impacts.

- Reduced efficiency in processing plants during the height of the pandemic resulted in illegal animal movement across the country. Animal Industry staff closely monitored Nevada's entry requirements and enforced regulations already in place for all species. As a result, staff were able to improve adherence and compliance to state regulations, as well as reinforce requirements in response to other disease outbreaks that arose during the year. Given the illegal animal movement and public health risks, enforcement of regulations with respect to custom slaughter also became a focus.
- Animal Industry staff continue to monitor and evaluate the importation and movement of animals within and across the state, while also reviewing and applying current regulations to ensure compliance, improved enforcement and protection of public health.