

December 9, 2020 Board Report

Plant Industry



Division Overview

- Partnership Activities
 - NDOT
 - NDOT funds were provided to the department to fund a position that facilitates noxious weeds control along roadways, primarily through plan reviews and verification.
 - plans received – 7
 - plans approved – 6
 - United States Geological Survey
 - In coordination with United States Geological Survey (USGS), NDA staff has developed an informational fact sheet outlining the previous five years’ worth of sampling NV surface water’s for pesticides. The Early Warning Pesticide Monitoring in Nevada’s Surface Waters fact sheet is under review and anticipated to be published in early 2021.
 - Desert Farming Initiative (DFI)
 - NDA is continuing to partner with DFI to assist producers with meeting Food Safety Modernization Act, Produce Safety Rule requirements and to adapt to additional COVID-19 mitigation measures. Virtual trainings are being planned for January/February 2021.
 - University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
 - The pesticide education and compliance team has been collaborating with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in providing virtual trainings to licensees and certificate holders to facilitate compliance with NAC 555.

Program Updates

- Entomology
 - Delays were experienced in completing imported fire ant surveys due to hiring challenges, however, now that staff have been secured the survey is on track to be completed by December. All other invasive species surveys have been completed with no positive finds.

Number of Entomological Pest Identified:	25,372
Total Number of Insect Identified:	52,860

- Noxious weeds
 - A new weed-free mulch certification program has been established in conjunction with the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). Once a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is established, program participation will be available.
 - Performed 21 weed-free forage inspections/site visits

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- 4 new producers located in Gardnerville, McGill, and Wellington
 - Performed 18 weed-free gravel inspections/site visits
 - 3 new producers in Tonopah and Winnemucca
 - Noxious Weed Enforcement
 - 20 regulatory letters sent in Washoe, Churchill, Clark, and Elko counties
 - 6 noxious weed complaints received
 - Survey/mapping noxious weeds
 - Early Detection and Distribution (EDD) MapS Reviewed 64
 - EDDMapS Submitted 90
 - EDDMapS follow up 5 (These are usually points that need follow up questions)
- Plant Pathology
 - The plant pathology lab has established a DNA-based Beet Curley Top Virus (BCTV) detection method and successfully detect BCTV from several hemp crops. This is the first detection of this virus from the hemp crop in Nevada. The positive detections and further lab comparative studies confirmed that the virus is the cause of hemp leaf curl and stunting disease that has been troublesome to hemp production for years without knowing the real cause.
 - The plant pathologist joined the Western Hemp Integrated Pest Manage (IPM) Program Working Group to create and share new lab-based research knowledge from each state and disseminate information to the western region hemp producers through webinars, in-person conferences, factsheets, websites and other platforms.
 - The plant pathology lab tested several rhododendron plants for possible infection by *P. ramorum*, a federal quarantine pathogen, during a trace forward survey. The qPCR test confirmed all plants shipped to Nevada are negative of this pathogen.
 - The 2020 wheat Karnal bunt disease survey confirmed the negativity of this disease in Nevada's wheat production areas. This survey ensures that Nevada is free from this quarantine disease, and such a status will facilitate the exports of U.S.-origin wheat to trading partner countries.
- Seed
 - The Seed program has been awarded a new assistance agreement with the Bureau of Land Management. This agreement offers 5-year terms to support new personnel at the Department that will focus on the expansion of native seed related services. These services will include educating the production community on growing native seed, hosting training events informing the public on native seed related opportunities and providing inspection services related to certification of native seed.
- Pesticides
 - Due to an increase in companies either manufacturing, marketing or distributing pesticide products and/or devices that claim to kill COVID-19, the U.S. EPA is requesting assistance in conducting inspection at these facilities to ensure they are

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adhering to the Federal Fungicide Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). NDA staff has or is looking into 5 of these companies.

- In early March, EPA released an initial list of disinfectants that, when used according to the label, will kill SARS-CoV-2. The EPA list began with 85 products and now includes more than 500 surface disinfectants. The list is updated weekly, is searchable, and includes helpful tips on how to use disinfectants properly.
- Staff will be attempting to educate businesses, schools, hotels, and nonprofit organizations. to exercise caution when purchasing disinfectants and sanitizing products claiming kill COVID-19. While sanitizers are considered pesticides, the NDA pesticide licensing requirements do not apply to companies or individuals that perform domestic or industrial sanitation. This includes the use of EPA registered sanitizers or disinfectants and services for the control of mold or other fungus detrimental to human health. Staff has been notifying companies wanting to get involved with this type of work to notify their local or county health department for any additional licensing requirements on domestic or industrial sanitation services that may be required.
- Chemistry
 - The lab has renewed the control substance licenses successfully, including the DEA license and Nevada Board of Pharmacy license. These licenses allow the Department to take in cannabis samples and meet new federal requirements.
- Crops
 - Shipping Point/Onion
 - NDA continues to provide shipping point inspections, which include USDA grading services to ensure the quality and size meets USDA product standards. These inspections are requested by the buyer and most of these requests are for shipments to Canada. The 2020-2021 shipping point season began August 1, 2020 with peak season starting before the Thanksgiving. Federal phytosanitary certificate statistics are reported from July 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 and have increased over last year by 23% with 281 certificates being processed to date for FY21 versus FY20, where 228 certificates were processed during the same time period. The table below presents combined export and phytosanitary certificates issued to-date, which is anticipated to be reflective of FY20 numbers by the end of the year (as of 11/13/20).

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Combined Number of Export and Phytosanitary Certificates Issued	537	534	735	496
Pounds applied for export	7,363,770	6,660,927	9,885,468	1,204,861

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- Produce Safety Education and Compliance program activities were restricted due to COVID-19. When possible in person activities were conducted via electronic communication and phone. NDA Staff conducted three Produce Safety Rule Inspections in person with no egregious observations.
- Registered hemp growers
 - There was a decrease from 2019 hemp production was experienced in 2020. The following data accounts for total area produced related to the number of growers registered from May 2016 through November 2020

State of Nevada Statistics	Acres	Sq. Ft.
2016 Applied Area =	319.28	400.00
2016 Planted =	229.78	400.00
2016 Producers =	11	
2017 Applied Area =	490.20	17,170.00
2017 Planted =	434.50	17,170.00
2017 Growers =	26	
2018 Applied Area =	1,880.06	235,688.00
*2018 Planted =	1,128.00	141,413.00
2018 Growers =	115	
2019 Applied Area =	14,693.86	1,623,022.00
2019 Certified Area =	14,223.66	1,607,942.00
2019 Planted =	4,917.54	266,668.00
2019 Growers =	213	
**2020 Applied Area =	5022.56	975,801.00
**2020 Certified Area =	3874.80	789,623.00
**2020 Planted =	1,609.62	281,150.00
**2020 Growers =	116	

**2018 planted area is approximate based upon observations during field inspections. **2020 data as of 11/18/2020. Planted area is approximate based upon grower-submitted harvest reports and inspector observations during field inspections.*

- 2020 Samples, Non-Compliant Samples, and Disposals
 - Of the 292 hemp samples analyzed for delta-9 THC, 7.8% did not meet compliance requirements. The following data includes harvest reports received between January 1, 2020 and November 11, 2020:

State of Nevada Statistics	Samples
Total Samples Collected	292
Non-Compliant Samples	23
Approved Crop Disposals	13