September 9, 2025, Board Report

Division of Administrative Services



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Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- New Ag Plate: The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is in the process of updating the Nevada Ag Plate. We are currently working with the Department of Motor Vehicles to conduct road testing and finalize the plate. More information on the date of availability for the new plate to come.
- Nevada State Fair: Planning for the first official Nevada State Fair since 2010 is underway. More details to come.
- Successful closing of Fiscal Year 2025.

Partnership activities

- The NDA welcomed Food Safety staff from the Environmental Health Section of the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
- The NDA and Sierra Arts Foundation hosted the Brush and Brews Throwdown event at The Depot in Reno, to promote the 2025 Nevada Craft Beverage Passport Program. 12 artists participated in a 3-round live-art competition, and event proceeds went to benefit the Sierra Arts Foundation.
- The NDA and Made in Nevada are recruiting for the 2026 Nevada Craft Beverage Passport. This will be the fifth-year anniversary with the program, offering exclusive prizes in support of Nevada's craft beverage industry.

Program Updates

Industry Development and Marketing

- Applied for FY 2026 U.S. Small Business Administration State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Grant which will cost share 50% of eligible international trade activities for small businesses across all industries in Nevada. Pending application review and notification of results.
- Applied for 2025 USDA Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) Grant in collaboration with Nevada Small Business Development Center to promote Taste of Nevada campaign. Pending application review and notification of results.
- Applied for 2025 USDA Farms Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant in collaboration with UNR Cooperative Extension to fund community development trainings and technical assistance to producers across the State.
- Attended the 2025 North American Agricultural Marketing Officials Annual Meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ and learned from other states' agricultural marketing campaigns and programming.
- Worked across the Division of Plant Health and Compliance, Division of Animal Industry and the new Food Safety team to align and streamline the issuance of Certificates of Free Sale and Certificates of Origin from NDA.

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Upcoming trade events:

- International Bakery Industry Expo ASEAN, Vietnam, Taiwan inbound mission to Las Vegas and technical seminar September 14-16 (4 Nevada companies are participating).
- Mexico Inbound Produce Mission in Coordination with Idaho (onion and potato meetings in Yerington and Winnemucca) September 22-23.
- Mexico Outbound Mega Mission (Mexico City and Monterrey) December 1-6. Actively recruiting Nevada companies.

Communications

News releases and stories

- Free summer meals kick off in southern Nevada
 - o KTNV 13 Las Vegas; Las Vegas Sun; Nevada Independent
- Confirmed rabies cases in Nevada
 - o Eureka Sentinel; Mesa Valleys Progress; Pahrump Valley Times
- Nevada horse owners urged to update vaccinations before mosquito season
- Support Nevada's craft beverage industry at the Reno Aces game
- Nevada shifts back to cage-free regulations as egg prices drop
 - o <u>KOLO 8; KTNV 13 Las Vegas; KTVN 2 News; Nevada Globe; Reno Gazette</u> <u>Journal; This is Reno</u>
- Free summer meals kick off in northern Nevada
 - o This is Reno;
- State Entomologist Jeff Knight retires after 40 years of distinguished service
 - Ag Careers; Carson Now; Edible Reno-Tahoe; The Fernley Reporter; Nevada
 Appeal; Nevada Independent; News 3 LV; Northern Nevada Business Weekly;
 This is Reno;
- Sierra Arts Foundation and Nevada Department of Agriculture Bring Back "Brush & Brews" Live Art Competition July 17
- MEDIA ALERT: Join the NDA for the ceremonial signing of AB 333
- Governor Lombardo signs AB 333 returning the Nevada State Fairgrounds to the Nevada Department of Agriculture
 - o Carson Now; KOLO 8; KTVN 2 News; This is Reno; Western Ag Reporter

Communications Plans

The communications team continues to implement four concurrent communication plans with tactics including:

- Monthly Newsletters
- Industry Updates

Educational and promotional materials

Staff have completed the following educational and promotional materials:

- Summer Food Service Program advertisements
- Helped coordinate the signing of AB 333 with Governor Lombardo
- Division of Food and Nutrition distribution truck wrap branding designs.
- Fundraising event for the NV Craft Beverage Passport with the Reno Aces

Language Access Plan

- The NDA Language Access Coordinator is implementing the Language Access Plan, including:
 - o Cultural Competency Training developed and distributed to staff
 - Contracts established for interpretation services
 - o Translation of vital documents

Public Records Requests

• Year to date, 31 public records requests have been received and 24 have been processed in 2025

Agricultural Literacy

Community Outreach

- Moolissa/Moonique attended three community outreach events in Smith, Lyon, and Churchill counties reaching about 7,500 people.
 - Walker Basin Conservancy field trip
 - o Reno Rodeo
 - o Fallon Cantaloupe Festival
- New educational materials have been developed to be used in the classroom and at community events.
 - o Career Quest: Discover Careers from Farm to Table
 - o Beef or Dairy? Milk or Meat?
 - o Discover Nevada's Native and Noxious Plants
- A partnership has been started with the Desert Research Institute to develop some agriculture focused robotics activities and curriculum.
- Marketing to participate in our first Nevada Crunch Day in October has begun. This promotional activity is to help educate and have students taste local foods during October Farm to School month.

Fiscal Services

- Closing of Fiscal Year 25: Closed FY 25 on-time and all Budgets Accounts were closed in the positive.
- Opening of FY 26 Establishing Authority for FY 26, with new legislatively approved budget.
- Finalizing Financial Reports on Federal Grants with an end date of June 30, 2025.
- Continued procedure review of Fiscal.
- IT Program had a successful mitigation of our new Food Safety Staff.