

March 19, 2026, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- Livestock Inspection Program
 - Recruitment process has begun for the two Agriculture Police Officer II positions located in Northern and Eastern Nevada. The Livestock Inspection Program continues to build and collaborate in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program business plan.
 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at public livestock auctions.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571
 - Nevada State Quarantine Officer adopted R001-23 December 3, 2025
 - R001-23 was filed with the Secretary of State and became effective on February 27, 2026.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 584
 - Staff continue to review NAC 584 for necessary updates and potential revisions to the current language for future in person / virtual workshops and later hearing.
- NDA Food Safety program is settling into their new roles and will begin transitioning away from the interlocal agreement between (NDA) and Nevada Health Authority (NHA) in assisting with renewals and inspections of with respect to non-food programs.
- Regulation changes required under Senate Bill (SB) 466 are being drafted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture and will be shared with stakeholders across the state, including counties and local health authorities to get their input.
- Department of Health and Human Services utilizes Aithent Licensing System. NDA Information Technology staff are continuing work with Aithent staff to move programs to an NDA system. NDA, NHA, and Aithent are working toward splitting the system for the two new programs.
- Food Safety Program & Dairy Program Collaboration
 - Exploring options for a new online system to manage licensing, inspections, complaints, and renewals

Partnership activities

- United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
 - Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) staff continues working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - The NDA continues utilizing 2025 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements. A portion of the funds will be used to purchase Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Electronic Identification (EID) tags.
- Nevada Food Safety Task Force & Nevada Environmental Health Association
 - Planning an educational conference on June 9–10, 2026, at the Atlantis Resort and Casino.
- Central Nevada Health District (CNHD)
 - Supporting the 2026 Burning Man Project Event through the Food Safety Program. Contract negotiations are currently in progress.
- Reno Livestock Events Center
 - Food Safety began working with the Event Coordinator for the State Fair and Reno Rodeo to begin the application process.

- United States Food and Drug Administration
 - Food and Drug Administration Contract Novation in process to transfer contract to NDA
- Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA and WHC continue work under the April 18, 2025, to April 18, 2026, non-exclusive cooperative agreement for the management of Virginia Range feral/estrays (VRE) horses.
 - From November 2025 to current, WHC reports that there have been 252 calls received.
 - WHC reports ten (10) vehicle crashes involving VRE horses from November 2025 to current. The yearly total of crashes reported was as follows:
 - 2025: 24
 - 2024: 37
 - 2023: 42
 - 2022: 24
 - 2021: 27
 - 2020: 46
 - During this reporting period, WHC removed and relocated 1 horse that posed a public safety threat. The horse was relocated to an approved area of the VRE where water and feed are available.
 - Per the cooperative agreement, diversionary feedings are done to draw horses away from highways and urban areas during the timeframe of October 14 to April 14 of each year. There are currently four (4) approved diversionary locations for feeding occurring at the time of this report.
- American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
 - The NDA and AWHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement continues with an end date of September 30, 2026.
 - The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC on the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports from November 2025 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 301 individual mares utilizing 305 doses 68 doses given as a primer and 237 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,380 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range. The number of alleged living horses includes 330 which AWHC has listed as “missing.”
 - NDA’s historical data of VRE horse population:
 - 1997: 413
 - 2002: 1,274
 - 2008: 1,448
 - 2014: 1,959
 - 2018: 2,951
 - 2022: 3,567

Program Updates

Commercial Feed

- This program has had 338 new or renewed, registered and active accounts from November 2025 to current.

Livestock Enforcement

- The NDA's 3 Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during the time frame of November 11, 2025, to February 25, 2026:
 - 59 livestock investigations requiring 156.90 staff hours
 - 13 animal health investigations requiring 14.5 staff hours
 - 82 Traffic stops/Check Sites, with 0 violations discovered
 - 86 brand inspections requiring 154.25 staff hours, for 4,347 head of livestock
 - 19 strays/estrays
 - 9 Public Service / 10.5 public service hours
 - 283.5 patrol hours traveled 22,287 miles
 - 39 Travel Time
 - 1 Citation
 - 3 VRE response requiring 6 staff hours
 - 5 livestock in roadway responses
 - 2 crashes (livestock in Nixon, and Las Vegas)
 - 380.25 administrative staff hours
 - 9.5 Equipment maintenance
 - 16 agency/division assists
 - 57 staff training hours
 - 1,349 phone calls
 - 493 contacts made
 - 4 warnings (verbal and written)
 - 0 Plant truck stops
 - 0 Nursery checks

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 4,567 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 146,213 animals, not including the public livestock auctions from November 13, 2025, to the time of this report.
- Brand inspectors worked 4,121 hours and traveled 90,346 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff approved 61 new brand applications, 2 temporary brand applications and transferred 12 brands. Currently, there are 6 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,661 active Nevada brands and 370 expired brands.
- Division staff have received 2,869 livestock assessment filings for 2025.
- There have been 1,920 livestock movement permits issued in 2026.
- Twelve (12) agricultural licenses have been issued from November 2025 to current.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 62 phone calls or emails and one in person visit relating to the Virginia Range Estray (VRE) horses from November 2025 to current.
 - Throughout this reporting period, NDA staff have continued to meet and work with federal, state, county, and city agencies to collaboratively identify areas of the highest importance which require the installation of fencing to promote and protect public safety.

- With the current grant funding now fully expended, NDA will continue to pursue activities related to the VRE, however, progress will be significantly constrained by limited financial resources as a result of not receiving any additional grant awards. The project has been highly successful to date, but the VRE project manager is now on furlough and will only be engaged on a limited basis if funding becomes available. All planned future fencing projects are also on hold due to the lack of funding.

Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC)

- PARC staff have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout the time of November 2025 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes European starlings (99%). The remaining 1% was comprised of coyotes, ravens, lions, beavers, badgers, muskrats, and raccoons.
- Staff provided public outreach to 90 individuals or businesses from November 2025 to current. Protecting \$134,035,238 worth of Agricultural Resources. No samples were taken for testing during this reporting period.
- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of, 19 beef calves, 4 sheep (adults), 2 sheep (lambs), 4 goats (kid), 2 tons of livestock feed and 1 silage /fodder bag that were killed/consumed during the reporting period.

Veterinary Medical Service

- Enhanced equine import requirements were put in place from November 11- December 31 in response to a multistate Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) outbreak within the rodeo industry. A new online entry permitting system was put in place and utilized to issue the required entry permit number for all horses entering the state for the above listed time period. This requirement was necessary for traceability of the large influx of horses into the state associated with the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) and other Las Vegas area events. Over 4700 equine entry permits were issued during that period, totaling 8580 equine into Nevada.
- In January the State Veterinarian presented at four Cattlemen's roundup events on the topic of New World Screw Worm (NWS).
- In January, Veterinary Diagnostician participated in a multistate Livestock Emergency Response Plan Development Workshop with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes in Owyhee.
- Herd Tuberculosis (TB) testing was performed on the trace dairy herd with no suspects detected. The indemnity process is still underway with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for removal of exposed animals.
- Nevada transitioned to Stage 4 (unaffected) status from Stage 3 (affected) for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Nevada dairy cattle. Monthly bulk tank testing will continue on all dairies in Nevada.
- State Veterinarian presented at the annual Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association (NEPA) conference in Las Vegas on Secure Food Supply Plans and their role in management of Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks.
- In early January a horse was confirmed positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) on premises in Nye County. Follow up testing of remaining 12 horses on the premises led to two more confirmed positive horses for EIA and Piroplasmiasis and one confirmed positive for Piroplasmiasis only. The premises is under quarantine until 60 day follow up testing can be performed on the remaining horses.
- From November 13, 2025, through January 31, 2026, 1227 sheep and 1227 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance
- Positive herds and fence line contacts under hold orders for Trichomoniasis are continuing to report that they are testing and will remove any positive bulls to have quarantine orders lifted.

- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed a total of 7,057 tests and/or services for veterinarians, clinics and owners.
- The NDA hired a new microbiologist for the Elko laboratory; Mary Tomera was promoted to her new position on February 09, 2026. Mary successfully participated in the 2026 ad-hoc proficiency test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing issued by the USDA-National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).
- ADL staff successfully participated in and passed the 2025 Brucella Serological Proficiency test issued by NVSL
- ADL staff successfully participated in bacteriology and parasitology proficiency testing issued in December by the International Veterinary Proficiency Testing Center with at the University of Prince Edward Island.
- ADL staff successfully participated in rabies proficiency testing evaluated by the University of Wisconsin in December.
- The ADL supervisor successfully participated in the 2025 NVSL EIA Training course. Each testing site requires at least one NVSL trained personnel.

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following from November 2025 to the time of this report:
 - 21 dairy farm inspections and 20 re-inspections
 - 12 food processing plant inspections and 5 re-inspections
 - 17 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests
 - 18 warning and complaint notices
 - Cease and Desist Letter for craft food permit violations
 - 376 milk sample collections
 - 7 bulk milk hauler evaluation/training/exam
 - 11 milk plant sampler evaluations
 - 3 plant/farm ratings
 - 16 milk tank truck inspection
 - 1 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews
 - 52 Store checks for illegal dairy products
 - 28 Consumer Inquiries
 - 1 Complaint Investigations
 - 6 water sample collections
 - 25 total audits
 - 29 Dairy Distribution Program Product Store Investigations
 - 324 Retail Milk Price Surveys
 - 43 Dairy Coupon and Promotion Request Approvals
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 236 dairy distributors licensed.
- Dairy Inspection staff commissioned the opening of a new rotary dairy barn
- Dairy staff accompanied the FDA Regional Milk Specialist as she conducted a check rating and a botulism investigation at a Nevada Milk Plant.
- The audit staff conducted retail price checks on eggs to verify the effectiveness of AB 171 in reducing egg prices for the consumer. Egg prices have decreased in both the Northern and Southern areas of the State since AB 171 was signed into law by the Governor.

Food Safety Program

- Public Health Rating and Survey Officer (Manufactured) successfully completed the Seafood Course with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- The program welcomed Kobe Kitson as the Administrative Assistant 2 for the Food Safety Program. Food Safety will be refilling the recently vacated AA1 position.
- Completed the first draft of the Cottage Food Regulations for AB 352.

Industry Impact

