

September 4, 2024, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



Nevada
Department
of Agriculture

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- Livestock Inspection Program
 - Rebuilding continues in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan.
 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at the public livestock auctions.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571
 - Staff have completed revisions and edits to the current proposed language for future in person/virtual workshop and later hearing.
- Elko Program Officer I position was filled May 13, 2024, by Scottie Vega.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 584
 - Staff have begun reviewing NAC 584 for necessary updates and potential revisions to the current language for future in person / virtual workshops and later hearing.

Partnership activities

- United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
 - Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) staff continue working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - The NDA is now utilizing 2024 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements.
 - The NDA was awarded \$43,620 for FY 2024 Animal Disease Traceability activities and \$32,759 to conduct Animal Health National Surveillance and Response activities.
- Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in September 2023 for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. From May 2024, to current there have been 160 calls received.
 - Diversionary feedings are done to draw horses away from highways and urban areas during the timeframe October 14 – April 14. All diversionary feedings have been vacated as of April 14, 2024.
 - WHC reports three (3) vehicle crashes from May 2024 to current which involved VRE horses. One (1) animal was hit by a train near I-80 and Derby Dam. The yearly total of crashes reported were as follows:
 - 2023 – 42
 - 2022 – 24
 - 2021 – 27
 - 2020 – 46

- American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
 - The NDA and AWHC has entered into a sixth year of non-exclusive cooperative agreement that runs from May 1, 2024 until April 30, 2025. The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC on the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports from May 2024 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 367 individual mares utilizing 375 doses, (82 doses given as a primer and 293 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3521 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range. The number of alleged living horses includes 302 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 47 new or renewed, registered and active accounts from May 2024 to current. There are a total of 142 registered accounts up to current date, for 2024.

Livestock Enforcement

- The Agricultural Police Officers received a Silver level award for Excellence in Online Training Management, from Lexipol Connect.
- The NDA's Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during the time frame of May 3, 2024 to July 25, 2024;
 - 25 livestock investigations requiring 61 staff hours;
 - 50 staff hours of follow-up investigations;
 - 2 animal health investigations, 2 staff hours, 0 animals quarantined;
 - 8 Public Service Responses;
 - 59 traffic stops;
 - 17 transit inspections;
 - 5 check sites;
 - 22 brand inspections requiring 33 staff hours;
 - 3 strays;
 - 8 estrays;
 - 4 VRE responses requiring 23 staff hours;
 - 1 livestock in roadway responses;
 - 1 crash (traffic);
 - 0 crash (livestock);
 - 0 highway kills;
 - 0 railroad kills;

- 105 administrative staff hours;
- 17 agency assists;
- 49 staff training hours;
- 340 phone calls;
- 128 contacts made;
- 21 staff hours for equipment maintenance;
- 3 warnings;
- 1 misdemeanor citation issued.

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 2,529 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 62,661 animals, including the public livestock auctions from May 3, 2024, to current.
- Brand inspectors have worked 2,047 hours and traveled 43,825 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff renewed 2 brands, approved 44 new brand applications, 11 temporary brand applications and transferred 3 brands. Currently, there are 3 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,335 active Nevada brands and 402 expired brands.
- Received 1,807 livestock assessment filings for July 1, 2024.
- There have been 2,262 livestock movement permits issued in 2024.
- Twenty-two (22) agricultural licenses have been issued from May 3, 2024 to current.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 31 phone calls or emails relating to the Virginia Range Estray (VRE) horses from May 2024 to current.
 - Throughout this quarter, NDA staff have continued attending meetings 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.
 - NDA has entered into a contract with a vendor for reconstruction of pre-existing BLM fences, and construction of new fences pending the completion of the NEPA study, in the Virginia Range Area.
 - All funding for fencing is sourced from the NDA Feral Horse Management Project.
 - On July 15, 2024 NDA welcomed John Axtell as the Project Manager for the VRE Feral/Estray Horse Project.
 - On August 7th-9th, 2024, NDA relocated twenty-four horses from an active construction project in Reno, to the Northern Nevada Correctional Center where the horses will be kept during advertisement according to NRS 569, and remaining horses will be offered for adoption.

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 May 2024 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes ravens at 77%, coyotes 19% and badgers 2%, and the remaining 2% was comprised of mountain lions and red fox.
- Staff provided public outreach to 212 individuals or businesses from May 2024 to current. No samples were taken for testing during this reporting period.

- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 3 calves, 3 sheep (adults), 58 sheep (lambs), and 1 goat (adult) that were killed during the reporting period.
- Recruitment for one Field Assistant II position in Ely is in the process of being filled.

Veterinary Medical Service

- State veterinarian is working with garbage feeders to make sure they are following state and federal regulations by doing quarterly inspections.
- State veterinarian continues to work with the United States Swine Health Improvement Program to understand the benefits to Nevada Pork producers.
- The State veterinarian attended the Western States Livestock Health Association meeting in Modesto California. Topics covered ranged from updates on African Swine Fever, hemagglutinin neuraminidase (H5N1) in dairy cows both from Idaho and New Mexico and how other states were planning if it was detected. Other topics included depopulation and the use of Nitrogen foam for mass depopulation. Received an update on the Condor vaccination project as well as other updates on various USDA projects. There was also a discussion regarding the possible formation of a western alliance of states to work together to respond to emergencies and emerging diseases.
- State veterinarian is working with University Nevada, Reno (UNR) on education materials on Foot and Mouth disease preparedness and response.
- State veterinarian has worked with import/export personnel at USDA to help an equine venue in Las Vegas comply by setting up a temporary quarantine for an event horse from Europe. They have been given approval by USDA to house the horse.
- With the discovery of H5N1 or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cows there have been a variety of phone calls and meetings to try and get an understanding of how it is spread and the impact it will have on the dairy industry. There is now a Federal Order that requires all lactating cows to be tested for H5N1 through a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) approved laboratory prior to interstate movement. This does not affect cull cows that are going directly to slaughter. It also does not affect intrastate movement currently. Although this is a spillover event from wild birds into cattle, the issue still needs further research done to see if there are cow to cow, or multiple spillover events occurring. As of this report, the H5N1 is still avian and has not re-combined to be a mammalian virus. Since pigs are highly susceptible to influenza infections, the pork industry is following this closely. The National Assembly of State Veterinarians and National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) have been monitoring this closely and working with federal agencies to make sure messaging is consistent and to stay current on the best ways to protect the industry. As of this report there are 172 premises in 13 states affected. Many states are implementing intrastate travel testing restrictions especially for lactating animals to fairs. Colorado has about 50% of their dairies infected and in working with the dairy industry and poultry industries, who also have been affected, have instituted mandatory weekly bulk tank samples through their dairy division.
- Herds and fence line contacts under hold orders for Trichomoniasis are continuing to report that they are testing and will remove any positive bulls in order to have quarantine orders lifted.
- The NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. The most updated information indicates that the NDA collected 47 sheep samples from April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024. Two goat heads

were collected at the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) during that same period. There have been 250 sheep and 8 goats tested during the period from October 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. USDA requires that Nevada sample 252 sheep and 25 goats during the federal fiscal year running from October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

- From April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, 868 sheep and 931 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance.
- Drs. Mundschenk and Forbes and ADL supervisor Laura Morrow have been collaborating with the state of Nevada Department of Health regarding outreach education for H5N1 that would be distributed to Nevada’s dairy producers and workers.
- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed 2,353 procedures accounting for 6,553 tests and/or services.
- The ADL technical staff successfully completed a Rabies Proficiency Test administered by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH).
- NDA staff continues working with Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on the 2023-24 Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture program, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).
- The ADL and other laboratories at the NDA continue to work on a comprehensive build for a new laboratory information management system (LIMS). The vendor is currently working with the NDA laboratories and their subject matter experts to ensure a smooth transition.

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following for dates from May 2024 to the time of this report:
 - 12 dairy farm inspections and 14 re-inspections;
 - 1 single service facility inspection;
 - 7 food processing plant inspections;
 - 8 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests;
 - 7 warning and complaint notices;
 - collected 116 milk samples;
 - evaluated 10 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers;
 - 10 milk plant sampler evaluations;
 - 5 plant/farm ratings;
 - 3 milk tank truck inspections;
 - 2 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews;
 - 69 field investigations.
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 250 dairy distributors licensed and 15 Craft Food Permits.
- Staff escorted Lynn Godfrey from Idaho for United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ratings on two Grade A facilities. Both facilities passed ratings and were relisted on the Interstate Milk Shippers (IMS) list.
- Dairy Staff Attended the National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona.
- There were two Environmental Health Specialist positions vacant and have been filled.
- The vacant Auditor III position is in recruitment processing.

Industry Impact

- The Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule was published May 9, 2024. The rule will go into effect November 5, 2024, meaning official identification that is applied must be Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) tags. All cattle tagged prior with a metal tag will be grandfathered in.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571 in-person, virtual workshops have been held. Finalized adjustments will be made and an Adoption Hearing date will be determined and appropriately advertised.