

December 4, 2025, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- Livestock Inspection Program
 - Recruitment process has been completed for the Brand Inspector II position in Sparks. The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) will welcome Tara Sallee on November 24, 2025. 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 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at public livestock auctions.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
 - Adoption Hearing: December 3, 2025, 10 a.m.
- 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.
- The Environmental Health Section (EHS) Budget Account 3194 has been eliminated from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. The Food Safety Program has been moved to the NDA. As of July 8, 2025, the EHS staff moved out of 500 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Suite 657A, to 405 South 21st Street, Sparks. On July 28, 2025, the EHS Elko office moved from 1020 Ruby Vista Drive to 4780 Idaho Street. No other offices are moving at this time.
- The NDA continues to assist the Nevada Health Authority (NHA) with renewals, inspections, and staff training through an interlocal agreement. The NDA food safety staff continue providing guidance to callers regarding non-food programs.
- All regulatory changes required under Senate Bill 466 will be managed by the NDA.
- The Department of Health and Human Services utilizes Aithent Licensing System. NDA Information Technology staff are working 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.

Partnership activities

- United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
 - NDA continues working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - The NDA continues utilizing 2024 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements.
 - The NDA was awarded \$43,620 for FY 2025 Animal Disease Traceability activities and \$32,759 to conduct Animal Health National Surveillance and Response activities.

A portion of the funds will be used to purchase Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Electronic Identification (EID) tags.

- Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Public and Behavioral Health
 - The NDA was sub-awarded \$11,993 for FY 2024-2025 to support mosquito and tick surveillance in the State of Nevada.
- United States Food and Drug Administration
 - Food and Drug Administration Contract Novation is in process to transfer contract to
- 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 August 2025 to current, WHC reports that there have been 438 calls received.
 - WHC reports 7 vehicle crashes involving VRE horses from August 2025 to current. The yearly total of crashes reported were as follows:
 - 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 conducted to draw horses away from highways and urban areas during the timeframe of October 14 to April 14 of each year. There are currently 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 has continued 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 August 2025 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 322 individual mares utilizing 325 doses (71 doses given as a primer and 254 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,434 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range. The number of alleged living horses includes 328 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 recorded 123 new or renewed accounts that are registered and active from August 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 August 15, 2025, to November 10, 2025:
 - 31 livestock investigations requiring 97.5 staff hours
 - 7 animal health investigations requiring 11.5 staff hours
 - 168 traffic stops/check sites, with 1 violation discovered
 - 66 brand inspections requiring 109 staff hours, for 1,733 head of livestock
 - 4 strays/estrays
 - 7 public service/5.5 public service hours
 - 331.5 patrol hours with 20,366 miles traveled
 - 4 citations
 - 4 VRE responses requiring 9.5 staff hours
 - 5 livestock in roadway responses
 - 2 crashes (livestock)
 - 370 administrative staff hours
 - 19 equipment maintenance
 - 24 agency/division assists
 - 69.5 staff training hours
 - 858 phone calls
 - 290 contacts made
 - 0 plant truck stops
 - 0 nursery checks

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 4,162 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 83,560 animals, not including the public livestock auctions from August 2025 to current.
- Brand inspectors worked 3,800 hours and traveled 83,892 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff approved 31 new brand applications, 5 temporary brand applications and transferred 13 brands. Currently, there are 6 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,582 active Nevada brands and 370 expired brands.
- Division staff have received 2,579 livestock assessment filings for 2025.
- There have been 2,526 livestock movement permits issued in 2025.
- 17 agricultural licenses have been issued from August 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 VRE horses from August 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.
 - The NDA has entered into a contract with a vendor for reconstruction of pre-existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fences, and construction of new

fences pending the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study, in the Virginia Range Area. NDA previously reported that approximately 6 miles of existing fencing have been rebuilt in the Washoe Valley area of the VRE. In April of 2025, an additional 3.7 miles of fencing was completed, connecting the previously constructed fencing in Washoe Valley to Toll Road in South Reno.

- All funding for fencing is sourced from the NDA Feral Horse Management Project.
- On December 9, 10, and 11, 2024, NDA staff, Administrator of the Division of Animal Industry, VRE Project Manager and a BLM Helicopter Manager experienced with aerial horse counts conducted an aerial count of the Virginia Range. At the time of this report, a BLM statistician is analyzing the raw data to provide a population estimate.

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 August 2025 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time were coyotes (47%), ravens (38%), mallards (12%). The remaining 3% comprised red fox, beaver, lion, and a bobcat.
- Staff provided public outreach to 50 individuals or businesses from August 2025 to current, protecting \$102,142,000 worth of agricultural resources. No samples were taken for testing during this reporting period.
- Agricultural product losses verified by staff included 9 sheep (adults), 35 sheep (lambs), 7 goats (adults), 2 goats (kid), 40 chickens and 5 acres of corn that were killed/consumed during the reporting period.

Veterinary Medical Service

- As of September 29, all dairies have been released from quarantine due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Monthly bulk tank testing will remain in place for all dairies in Nevada per the National Milk Testing Strategy (NTMS).
- At the end of September, the State Veterinarian was made aware of a Tuberculosis (TB) trace to one Nevada dairy from an origin herd in Texas. Due to the federal shutdown, herd testing was postponed due to lack of indemnity processing. Testing is scheduled for mid-November.
- The Director and State Veterinarian presented veterinary topics at the Wild West Veterinary conference in October in Reno. The focus was on regulatory and emergent diseases.
- The State Veterinarian presented at the Nevada Cattlemen's meeting in November, providing updates on regulatory changes, HPAI and New World Screwworm (NWSW).
- 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.
- Veterinary Diagnostician Dr. Alice Porco was hired and reported to work at the Sparks office on November 10.
- In October, the NDA State Veterinarian and the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) Supervisor attended the 2025 American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) joint conference. This event brings together state and federal officials, veterinarians, and livestock producers with the shared mission of controlling livestock diseases in the United States. Attendees

exchanged scientific knowledge, reviewed policies, and contributed to resolutions supporting national animal disease control programs.

- Veterinarian Services continues to work with Nevada producers and veterinarians to obtain official identification tags in cattle and bison. The NDA issued 46,761 RFID tags between August 15, 2025, through November 20, 2025.
- The NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. From August 15, 2025, through November 12, 2025, NDA collected 26 samples (20 sheep and 6 goats).
- From August 15, 2025, through November 12, 2025, 1,083 sheep and 2,005 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance.
- In August, the Veterinary Diagnostician attended the Tri-County Fair in Winnemucca to inspect all sheep and goats for scrapie identification compliance.
- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed a total of 6,312 tests and/or services.
- In August, the USDA conducted an inspection of the ADL's Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) laboratory, with no deficiencies noted.
- ADL staff successfully participated in and passed the 2025 Equine Infectious Anemia Proficiency test issued by the USDA-National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).
- In October, the ADL hosted a Wildlife Necropsy Class in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and students from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following from August 2025 to the time of this report:
 - 27 dairy farm inspections and 20 re-inspections
 - 15 food processing plant inspections and 3 re-inspections
 - 10 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests
 - 20 warning and complaint notices
 - 288 milk sample collections
 - 25 bulk milk hauler evaluation/training/exam
 - 6 milk plant sampler evaluations
 - 1 plant/farm rating
 - 11 milk tank truck inspections
 - 1 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews
 - 8 Store checks for illegal products
 - 2 Consumer Inquiries
 - 3 Complaint Investigations
 - 48 water sample collections
 - 5 total audits
 - 9 Dairy Distribution Program Product Store Investigations
 - 95 Retail Milk Price Surveys
 - 14 Dairy Coupon and Promotion Request Approvals
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 234 dairy distributors licensed.
- Five staff members attended the Dairy Practices Council Meeting in Mystic, CT.
- Dairy inspection staff approved the plans for a new plant expansion and pasteurized milk receiving tank.
- Dairy Inspection staff commissioned a new High Temperature Short Time (HTST) system.

- Two staff members attended the FDA Dairy Farm Inspection course in Minneapolis, MN.
- Staff accompanied the FDA Regional Milk Specialist as she conducted check ratings at two Nevada Dairy farms.
- One staff member passed their State Sampling Surveillance Officer Recertification test.
- The audit staff conducted retail price checks on eggs to verify the effectiveness of Assembly Bill 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

- In August 2025, Sue Huff, Environmental Health Specialist III, successfully became the new Shellfish Standard for Nevada, passing the USDA Audit.
- The Shellfish Distribution Program successfully passed the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Program Element Evaluation Report (PEER).
- The Food Safety Program is working toward extending the ability for Dairy and Plant programs to take applications for Certificates of Free Sale online.
- Staff partnered with Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) to assist with inspections for the 2025 Burning Man Project. Five staff provided food inspections during the event, significantly raising the inspection rate.
- Staff assisted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration with a recall audit check for ByHeart Infant Formula products that are suspected to be contaminated with Clostridium Botulinum A.

Industry Impact

