



March 19, 2025, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- Livestock Inspection Program
 - Both Brand Inspector II positions for Elko and Sparks have been filled, and 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 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at the public livestock auctions.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571
 - Staff have completed revisions and edits to the current proposed language in preparation for adoption hearing.
- 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 continues 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. A portion of the funds were used to purchase RFID/EID tags.
- Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA continues the process of renewing the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. It is operating under the prior year agreement.
 - From November 2024 to current, Wild Horse Connection reports that there have been 275 calls received.
 - WHC reports sixteen (16) vehicle crashes involving VRE horses from November 2024 to current. There were twenty (20) horses relocated. The yearly total of crashes reported were as follows:
 - 2024: 37
 - 2023: 42
 - 2022: 24
 - 2021: 27
 - 2020: 46

- From July 1 to the date of this report, WHC removed and relocated 76 horses that posed a public safety threat. The horses were 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 five approved diversionary locations, with feedings occurring at the time of this report. The NDA continues to work with WHC by reviewing proposed diversionary feeding locations and anticipates additional locations will be approved prior to the next report.
- American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
 - The NDA and AWHC entered into a sixth year of the 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 November 2024 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 413 individual mares utilizing 419 doses (53 doses given as a primer and 366 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,433 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range. The number of alleged living horses includes 301 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 268 new or renewed, registered and active accounts from November 2024 to current.

Livestock Enforcement

- The NDA’s Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during the time frame of November 2024 to current:
 - 31 livestock investigations requiring 90 staff hours
 - 63 staff hours of follow-up investigations
 - 15 Public Service Responses
 - 95 traffic stops
 - 4 transit inspections
 - 2 check sites
 - 170 brand inspections requiring 141 staff hours
 - 11 strays
 - 3 estrays
 - 1 VRE response requiring 1 staff hour

- 3 livestock in roadway responses
- 1 crash (traffic)
- 2 crashes (livestock)
- 3 highway kills
- 0 railroad kills
- 208 administrative staff hours
- 17 agency assists
- 128 staff training hours
- 718 phone calls
- 240 contacts made
- 27 staff hours for equipment maintenance
- 26 warnings

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 4,442 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 174,000 animals, including the public livestock auctions from November 2024 to current.
- Brand inspectors have worked 3,965 hours and traveled 84,826 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff renewed 41 brands, approved 50 new brand applications, 2 temporary brand applications and transferred 12 brands. Currently, there are 13 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,461 active Nevada brands and 370 expired brands.
- Division staff have received 3,093 livestock assessment filings for 2024.
- There have been 1,716 livestock movement permits issued in 2024.
- Twelve (12) agricultural licenses have been issued from November 2024 to current.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 40 phone calls or emails relating to the Virginia Range Estray (VRE) horses from November 2024 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. Approximately 6 miles of existing fencing have been rebuilt in the Washoe Valley area of the VRE.
 - 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 November 2024 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes European starlings at 99%. The remaining 31% was comprised of coyotes, ravens, striped skunks, mountain lions, beavers, bobcats, red fox and raccoons.
- Staff provided public outreach to 84 individuals or businesses from November 2024 to current. No samples were taken for testing during this reporting period.
- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 4 calves, 10 sheep (adults), and 9 goats (adults) that were killed during the reporting period; and 40 tons of livestock feed consumed/contaminated, which lead to the loss of 1,360,165 pounds of dairy milk.
- Recruitment continues for one Field Assistant II position in Ely, which is in the process of being filled.

Veterinary Medical Service

- The NDA hired a new State Veterinarian, Dr. Peter Rolfe. Dr. Rolfe served previously as a regulatory veterinarian for the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- Veterinarian Services continues to work with Nevada producers and veterinarians to implement USDA changes to the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Rule 9 CFR 86 which went into effect November 5, 2024. The most significant impact is that the definition of official identification tags in cattle and bison must be both visually and electronically readable. The NDA issued 44,773 RFID tags between October 2024 through February 12, 2025.
- 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 NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. From October 1, 2025 to February 12, 2025, NDA has collected 41 sheep samples.
- From October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, 1,426 sheep and 1,640 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance.
- Veterinarian Services staff have been collaborating with the state of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding outreach education for H5N1 that would be distributed to Nevada's dairy producers and workers.
- In December, the Veterinarian Diagnostician attended the National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) Summit related to animal emergency management.
- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed 1,137 procedures accounting for 7,993 tests and/or services.
- The ADL staff successfully participated in the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) for rabies proficiency testing.
- NDA staff continues working with 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.
- The State Veterinarian traveled to 4 locations to give updates to Nevada Cattlemen's groups focusing on the new ADT rule and tag requirements. Questions were answered on tag allocations and availability. Other topics discussed included the brucellosis vaccination shortage and HPAI in dairy cattle.
- In early January, new detections of HPAI in dairy cattle were discovered in Churchill County. Previous surveillance testing progressed to an active disease response. Testing was moved from routine silo testing to traceback and active bulk tank testing on all dairies in Churchill County. Positive dairies were placed under quarantine, and specific movements of animals and products were restricted. The NDA began work with Federal partners and both local and state public health officials to mitigate the disease and protect public health. Extensive epidemiological investigations are being conducted to gain information about the possible source of the outbreak and help formulate plans to control the spread of the disease.

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following from November 2024 to the time of this report:
 - 22 dairy farm inspections and 9 re-inspections
 - 1 single service facility inspection
 - 8 food processing plant inspections and 2 re-inspections
 - 12 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests
 - 11 warning and complaint notices
 - 330 milk sample collections
 - 17 bulk milk hauler sampler/weigher evaluations
 - 16 milk plant sampler evaluations
 - 6 plant/farm ratings
 - 1 milk tank truck inspection
 - 0 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews
 - 70 field investigations
 - 8 Meat & Poultry Processing Facility Inspections
 - 21 Store checks for illegal products
 - 1 Industry Laboratory Evaluation
 - 356 Consumer Inquiries
 - 2 Complaint Investigations
 - 8 water sample collections
 - 40 total audits
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 227 dairy distributors licensed.
- Four staff members attended the Dairy Practices Council Conference in Madison, WI.
- Dairy inspection staff permitted a new dairy farm in Smith Valley.
- Five (5) staff members attended a virtual training given by DeLaval in preparation for the opening of the new robotic milking farm.

- The audit staff, working with the inspection staff, uncovered yogurt that was illegally produced in a non-licensed facility. The Dairy staff is working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on the investigation.

Industry Impact

- The Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule was published May 9, 2024. The rule went into effect November 5, 2024, meaning official identification that is applied after that date must be both electronically and visually readable. Cattle that already have non-electronic official identification, such as a metal Brite tag or metal brucellosis vaccination tag, applied before November 5, 2024, may continue to use that tag as official ID for the span of the animal's life.
- 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.