

June 4, 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 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at the public livestock auctions.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 continue to review 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 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 Fiscal Year (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.
- Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. Newly signed agreement terms are April 18, 2025, to April 18, 2026.
 - From February 2025 to current, Wild Horse Connection reports that there have been 250 calls received.
 - WHC reports seven (7) vehicle crashes involving VRE horses from February 2025 to current. There were seven (7) 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 90 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 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 no 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 non-exclusive cooperative agreement expired May 1, 2025. The NDA continues the process of renewing the AWHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement.
 - The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC on the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports from February 2025 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 441 individual mares, utilizing 446 doses (73 doses given as a primer and 373 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,453 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range. The number of alleged living horses includes 287 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 222 new or renewed, registered and active accounts from February 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 February 2025 to current:
 - 26 livestock investigations requiring 179 staff hours
 - 7 animal health investigations requiring 29 staff hours
 - 63 staff hours of follow-up investigations
 - 182 traffic stops
 - 4 transit inspections
 - 29 check sites, with 7 violations discovered
 - 43 brand inspections requiring 51 staff hours
 - 11 strays returned
 - 4 estrays
 - 3,827 animals checked

- 338 patrol hours with 12,0877 miles traveled
- 1 citation
- 1 misdemeanor arrest
- 1 gross misdemeanor arrest
- 1 VRE response requiring 2 staff hours
- 3 livestock in roadway responses
- 2 crashes (traffic)
- 2 crashes (livestock)
- 1 highway kill
- 0 railroad kills
- 272 administrative staff hours
- 27 agency assists
- 51 staff training hours
- 854 phone calls
- 383 contacts made
- 16 warnings

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 2,881 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 59,329 animals, not including the public livestock auctions from February 2025 to current.
- Brand inspectors have worked 2,319.25 hours and traveled 44,208 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff renewed 2 brands, approved 23 new brand applications, 6 temporary brand applications and transferred 21 brands. Currently, there are 7 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,504 active Nevada brands and 371 expired brands.
- Division staff have received 3,160 livestock assessment filings for 2025.
- There have been 2,211 livestock movement permits issued in 2025.
- Nine (9) agricultural licenses have been issued from February 2025 to current.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 55 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses from February 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. The 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 February 2025 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes European starlings at 99%. The remaining 1% was comprised of coyotes, ravens, black bear, badger, raccoon and a porcupine.
- Staff provided public outreach to 85 individuals or businesses from February 2025 to current, protecting \$251,934,302 worth of agricultural resources. No samples were taken for testing during this reporting period.
- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 1 cow, 23 calves, 16 sheep (adults), 13 sheep (lambs) and 2 goats (adults), 1 goat (kid) that were killed during the reporting period; and 125 tons of livestock feed consumed/contaminated, which lead to the loss of 72,985 pounds of dairy milk.
- Recruitment continues for one Field Assistant II position in Elko.

Veterinary Medical Service

- Veterinarian Services continues to work with Nevada producers and veterinarians to implement USDA changes to the 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 10,495 RFID tags between February 11, 2025, through April 30, 2025.
- USDA FY25 tag allocation was ordered and received at the NDA, Elko location. The full year allocation was 25,000 Orange Official Calhoo Vaccination tags.
- 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 February 11, 2025, to April 30, 2025, the NDA collected 41 samples.
- From January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025, 417 sheep and 577 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance.
- Veterinarian Services staff continue 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.
- Three (3) more detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on dairies in Churchill County occurred since February 11, with the last detection on March 17. All new positive dairies were placed under quarantine. Release from quarantine required three (3) consecutive weeks with negative bulk tank testing. The current HPAI situation in the state is as follows: one (1) dairy in Churchill County and one (1) in Nye County remain under quarantine. Statewide, weekly bulk tank testing will continue for the time being.
- The State Veterinarian traveled to Southern Nevada to perform a follow-up on an Equine Influenza outbreak involving burros brought in from out of state.
- The State Veterinarian presented at the University of Nevada, Reno Extension poultry workshop in Sparks on the topic of HPAI in backyard poultry.

- The Veterinary Diagnostician attended the Clark County Fair in Logandale and inspected all sheep and goats for scrapie identification compliance.
- NDA's State Veterinarian and the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) Supervisor participated in Agriculture Day at the Legislature on March 18, 2025.
- The NDA hosted the annual 2025 Nevada Vector Control Association meeting on May 6, 2025, attended by 23 representatives from vector control and public health agencies, focusing on arboviral projects in the state. The NDA introduced tick surveillance planning for the state.
- The ADL performed 1,822 cases accounting for 7,463 tests and/or services.
- The ADL's Elko laboratory was successfully inspected on February 20, 2025, by the USDA-APHIS. The site maintains approval to perform equine infectious anemia 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 and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.
- The ADL and other laboratories at the NDA continue to work on a comprehensive build for a new laboratory information management system. 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. Previously instated 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 were conducted to gain information about the possible source of the outbreak and help formulate plans to control the spread of the disease. As of May 16, 2025, the outbreak in Churchill County has subsided in intensity, with monitoring of the situation still ongoing via testing, overseen by the State Veterinarian.

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following from February 2025 to the time of this report:
 - 4 dairy farm inspections and 17 re-inspections
 - 1 single service facility inspection
 - 15 food processing plant inspections and 2 re-inspections
 - 9 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests
 - 8 warning and complaint notices
 - 1 Cease and Desist Letter for craft food permit violations
 - 346 milk sample collections
 - 3 bulk milk hauler sampler/weigher evaluations
 - 1 milk plant sampler evaluations

- 3 plant/farm ratings
 - 1 milk tank truck inspection
 - 1 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews
 - 70 field investigations
 - 3 Meat & Poultry Processing Facility Inspections
 - 5 Store checks for illegal products
 - 1 Industry Laboratory Evaluation
 - 113 Consumer Inquiries
 - 40 Complaint Investigations
 - 19 water sample collections
 - 44 total audits
 - 6 Dairy Distribution License Approvals
 - 3 Dairy Distribution Program Product Store Investigations
 - 2 Competitive Pricing Request Checks (Price Match)
 - 125 Retail Milk Price Surveys
 - 18 Dairy Coupon and Promotion Request Approvals
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 227 dairy distributors licensed.
 - Three staff members attended the National Conference for Interstate Milk Shippers in Madison, WI.
 - Dairy inspection staff commissioned the first robotic milk system farm in Nevada.
 - One staff member attended the FDA Farm Inspection and Sanitation course in Fresno, CA.
 - The audit staff completed 44 audits during this reporting period. Their efforts were also enlisted to audit the effectiveness of Assembly Bill (AB) 171 in lowering egg prices starting in February. The audit team conducted retail prices checks on eggs, at regular intervals, to verify the effectiveness of AB 171 in reducing egg prices for Nevada consumers. Egg prices have decreased in both the Northern and Southern areas of the state since AB 171 was signed into law by the Governor, and shortages have been reduced significantly.

Industry Impact

- The 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.
- 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.