

September 9, 2025, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- Livestock Inspection Program
 - Recruitment process has begun for the Brand Inspector II position in Sparks, 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 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at public livestock auctions.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 571
 - NAC 571 in-person and virtual workshops have been held. Finalized adjustments will be made and an adoption hearing date will be determined and appropriately advertised.
 - 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.
- 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 Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). As of July 8, 2025, the EHS staff moved out of 500 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Suite 657A, to 405 South 21st Street, Sparks, Nevada. On July 28, 2025, the Food Safety Program's Elko office moved from 1020 Ruby Vista Drive to 4780 Idaho Street. No other offices are moving at this time.
- The interlocal agreement allowing the NDA to assist the Nevada Health Authority (NHA) with renewals and inspections is underway and will be approved shortly. The NDA food safety staff is continuing to provide guidance to callers regarding non-food programs. When NHA hires staff, NDA will make arrangement to assist in training NHA staff to ensure continuity of services.
- All regulation changes required under Senate Bill (SB) 466 will be handled by the NDA.
- 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 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 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 RFID/EID tags.
- 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 Britetag 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.
- 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 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 May 2025 to current, WHC reports that there have been 262 calls received.
 - WHC reports six (6) vehicle crashes involving VRE horses from May 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 10 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 no 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 expired May 1, 2025. The NDA and the AWHC continued work in June with a gap agreement. A new agreement was signed July 7, 2025, 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 June 2025 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 308 individual mares utilizing 309 doses (31 doses given as a primer and 278 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,450 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 193 new or renewed, registered and active accounts from May 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 May 2025 to current:
 - 23 livestock investigations requiring 104.5 staff hours
 - 1 animal health investigation requiring 4 staff hours
 - 323 traffic stops/check sites, with 14 violations discovered
 - 135 brand inspections requiring 126 staff hours
 - 10,340 number of head
 - 5 strays/estrays
 - 490 patrol hours with 19,947 miles traveled
 - 2 citations
 - 8 VRE response requiring 11.5 staff hours
 - 6 livestock in roadway responses
 - 1 crash (livestock)
 - 285.5 administrative staff hours
 - 23 equipment maintenance
 - 42 agency assists
 - 44.5 staff training hours
 - 853 phone calls
 - 401 contacts made
 - 7 warnings
 - 2 plant truck stops
 - 15 nursery checks

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 2,881 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 68,200 animals, not including the public livestock auctions from May 2025 to current.
- Brand inspectors worked 2,594.55 hours and traveled 54,844 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff renewed 4 brands, approved 42 new brand applications, 0 temporary brand applications and transferred 14 brands. Currently, there are 3 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,542 active Nevada brands and 368 expired brands.
- Division staff have received 2,188 livestock assessment filings for 2025.

- There have been 2,347 livestock movement permits issued in 2025.
- Eleven (11) agricultural licenses have been issued from May 2025 to current.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 82 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses from May 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 May 2025 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes coyotes at 82%, ravens at 8%, badgers at 5%, red fox at 2%, and beavers at 1%. The remaining 2% was comprised of raccoons, a lion, and a bobcat.
- Staff provided public outreach to 81 individuals or businesses from May 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 consisted of 18 calves, 2 sheep (adults), 47 sheep (lambs).
- As of reporting time, all Field Assistant II positions have been filled.

Veterinary Medical Service

- The Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) situation in Nevada has improved since early June, with no new detection in dairy cattle or poultry within Nevada. Currently one (1) dairy remains under quarantine in Nye County. While statewide bulk tank testing continues on all dairies per the National Milk Testing Strategy (NTMS), testing has been reduced to once per month. Testing will continue until changes are made by the USDA.
- The State Veterinarian traveled to the Nye County to initiate some individual cow testing on the remaining quarantined dairy. Possible causes for the herd's persistent non-negative bulk tank test results were investigated. Individual cow testing will continue as heifers enter the milking string.

- NDA staff attended and presented at the University of Nevada, Reno Extension’s Secure Food Supply meeting in Elko.
- The State Veterinarian attended Western States Livestock Health Association (WSLHA) meeting in Tucson, Arizona, in June.
- Veterinarian Services continues to work with Nevada producers and veterinarians to obtain official identification tags in cattle and bison. The NDA issued 2,431 Radio Frequency identification (RFID) tags between May 1, 2025, through August 18, 2025.
- The NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. From May 1, 2025 to August 18, 2025, NDA collected 89 samples (80- sheep, 9- goats).
- From April 1, 2025, to June 24, 2025, 866 sheep and 1,014 goats were inspected at the two Fallon public livestock auctions for scrapie identification compliance.
- In August, the Veterinary Diagnostician attended the White Pine Fair in Ely and inspected all sheep and goats for scrapie identification compliance.
- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed 4,891 tests and/or services.
- ADL technical staff successfully participated in a Rabies Proficiency Test (PT) administered by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH).
- The ADL and Dairy technical staff successfully participated in the FDA Grade “A” Milk PT Program – Microbiology and Pasteurization Efficiency.
- The ADL went live with a new laboratory information management system (LIMS). The vendor is currently working with the NDA laboratories and subject matter experts to ensure continued support during the transition.

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following from February 2025 to the time of this report:
 - 20 dairy farm inspections and 19 re-inspections
 - 9 food processing plant inspections and 5 re-inspections
 - 8 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests
 - 20 warning and complaint notices
 - 382 milk sample collections
 - 26 bulk milk hauler evaluation/training/exam
 - 6 milk plant sampler evaluations
 - 4 plant/farm ratings
 - 9 milk tank truck inspections
 - 4 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews
 - 1 Meat & Poultry Processing Facility Inspections
 - 4 Store checks for illegal products
 - 1 Consumer Inquiries
 - 1 Complaint Investigations
 - 26 water sample collections
 - 19 total audits
 - 19 Dairy Distribution Program Product Store Investigations
 - 35 Retail Milk Price Surveys
 - 7 Dairy Coupon and Promotion Request Approvals
- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 231 dairy distributors licensed.
- One staff member attended the National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials in Burlington, VT.

- Dairy inspection staff approved the plans for a new carousel milking system to be built in Nevada.
- One staff member attended the FDA Plant Inspection and Sanitation course in Albany, NY.
- One staff member attended the FDA Pasteurization course in Tampa, FL.
- Two staff members attended the FDA Pasteurization course in Baton Rouge, LA.
- One staff member attended the FDA Plant Sanitation course in San Antonio, TX.
- One staff member attended the virtual FDA Dairy Laboratory Evaluation Officer course.
- 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

Program Information

- The Food Safety Program brought twelve new employees to the NDA Team and five new office locations to the Department.
- Retail and manufactured food inspections will be conducted in 2,100 facilities in nine rural counties.
- The shellfish distribution program is operated in Washoe and Clark Counties.