

June 11, 2026 Board Report

Division of Animal Industry

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- Livestock Inspection Program
 - Recruitment process has begun for the Agriculture Police Officer III located in Northern Nevada and the Agriculture Police Officer II position located in 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 - Staff continue to investigate possible electronic programs to replace outdated paper processes at public livestock auctions.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) 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.
- NDA Food Safety program is settling into their new roles and will begin transitioning away from the interlocal agreement between (NDA) and Nevada Health Authority (NHA) in assisting with renewals and inspections of with respect to non-food programs.
- Regulation changes required under Senate Bill (SB) 466 are being drafted by the Nevada Department of Agriculture and will be shared with stakeholders across the state, including counties and local health authorities to get their input.
- Department of Health and Human Services utilizes Aithent Licensing System. NDA Information Technology staff are continuing work 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.
- Food Safety Program & Dairy Program Collaboration
 - Exploring options for a new online system to manage licensing, inspections, complaints, and renewals working with Gov2Biz for services.
- Nevada Revised Statutes, 446 – Food Establishments
 - NRS 446 has been repealed and placed in NRS 580 - Food and Other Commodities: Purity; Standards; Weights and Measures; Marketing.

Partnership activities

- United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
 - Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) was awarded \$43,620 and continues working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - The NDA was awarded \$32,759 in the Umbrella Cooperative Agreement which covers animal disease activities with the exception of ADT.
- Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- NDA received a subaward for \$4,145 to support Nevada's Influenza A/H5N1 response efforts as well as preparedness activities. Nevada Food Safety Task Force & Nevada Environmental Health Association
- Educational conference to be held on June 9–10, 2026, at the Atlantis Resort and Casino the Meat and Poultry Program and the Dairy Program will be making presentations at the meeting.
- Central Nevada Health District (CNHD)
 - Supporting CNHD for the next few months to provide coverage due to a staff shortage in the district.
- Reno Livestock Events Center
 - Food Safety is working to permit Nevada Made Farmers Market, Reno Rodeo and the State Fair.
- Nevada Health Authority – Interlocal is being created with NHA to continue to conduct Public Private and Charter School inspections throughout Nevada.

- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program – The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program is designed to strengthen the middle of the food supply chain by funding infrastructure improvements, equipment purchases, and supply chain coordination. Through this program, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has supported producers with eight farm equipment grants to acquire new machinery, two infrastructure grants to expand operational capacity, and a supply chain coordination partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension. The Cooperative Extension will offer a range of courses to assist participants with grant acquisition, reporting requirements, and networking opportunities.
- United States Food and Drug Administration
 - Food and Drug Administration Contract Novation in process to transfer contract to NDA
- Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA and WHC continue work under the current, non-exclusive cooperative agreement for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses.
 - From March 2026 to current, WHC reports that there have been 77 calls received.
 - WHC reports two (2) vehicle crashes involving VRE horses from March 2026 to current. The yearly total of crashes reported was as follows:
 - 2025: 24
 - 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 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 continues with an end date of September 30, 2026.
 - The NDA receives monthly reports from AWHC on the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports from March 2026 to current indicate that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 314 individual mares utilizing 15 doses (62 doses given as a primer and 253 doses as a booster). The AWHC database has been updated to report 3,464 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range. The number of alleged living horses includes 384 which AWHC has listed as “missing.”
- NDA’s historical data of VRE horse population:
 - 1997: 413
 - 2002: 1,274
 - 2008: 1,448
 - 2014: 2,951
 - 2022: 3,567

Program Updates

Commercial Feed

This program has had 352 new or renewed, registered and active accounts from March 2026 to current.

Livestock Enforcement

- The NDA's 3 Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during the time frame of November 11, 2025, to February 25, 2026:
 - 43 livestock investigations requiring 156.90 staff hours
 - 7 animal health investigations requiring 14.5 staff hours
 - 98 Traffic stops/Check Sites, with 0 violations discovered
 - 50 brand inspections requiring 81.5 staff hours, for 1,551 head of livestock
 - 10 strays/estrays
 - 9 Public Service / 10.5 public service hours
 - 283.5 patrol hours traveled 22,287 miles
 - 21 Travel Time
 - 1 Citation
 - 3 VRE response requiring 6 staff hours
 - 3 livestock in roadway responses
 - 2 crashes
 - 272 administrative staff hours
 - 4 Equipment maintenance
 - 16 agency/division assists
 - 57 staff training hours
 - 853 phone calls
 - 383 contacts made
 - 4 warnings (verbal and written)
 - 2 Plant truck stops
 - 0 Nursery checks

Livestock Identification

- Staff have completed more than 2,986 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 63,960 animals, not including the public livestock auctions from March, 2026, to the time of this report.
- Brand inspectors worked 4,121 hours and traveled 52,367 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff approved 50 new brand applications, 2 temporary brand applications and transferred 10 brands. Currently, there are 15 pending brand applications.
- Currently, registered brand owners have renewed 4,684 active Nevada brands and 372 expired brands.
- Division staff have received 2,741 livestock assessment filings for 2025.
- There have been 2,885 livestock movement permits issued in 2026.
- Twelve (12) agricultural licenses have been issued from March 2026 to current.
- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 70 phone calls or emails relating to the Virginia Range Estray (VRE) horses from March 2026 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.

- With the current grant funding now fully expended, NDA will continue to pursue activities related to the VRE, however, progress will be significantly constrained by limited financial resources as a result of not receiving any additional grant awards. The project has been highly successful to date, but the VRE project manager is now on furlough and will only be engaged on a limited basis if funding becomes available. All planned future fencing projects are also on hold due to the lack of funding.

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 March 2026 to current. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during this time includes ravens (89%) and coyotes (9%). The remaining 2% was comprised of lions, beavers, and a bobcat.
- Employees provided public outreach to 53 individuals or businesses since March 2026. No samples were taken from predatory animals during this time.
- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of, 3 beef calves, 1 sheep (adults), 1 goats (adult), that were killed/consumed during the reporting period.

Veterinary Medical Service

- The quarantine remains in place for the Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) detection in Nye County. Two additional horses were found to be positive for EIA and Piroplasmosis, and one additional horse was found to be positive for only Piroplasmosis. All positive horses were euthanized. 30-day follow-up testing revealed no other positive horses of the 9 remaining on the premises. 60-day follow up testing was recently performed and test results are pending. If no additional positive animals are identified the quarantine will be released.
- A herd plan was agreed upon with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cattle Health, and no exposed cattle will need to be removed from the herd and indemnified. Two rounds of testing of the 136 remaining exposed cattle will be performed. The first of the two rounds was conducted in early April, and the conformation testing will be conducted in November.
- Dr. Alice Porco attended the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (PACVEC) conference in Utah. This conference has a focus on vector-borne disease in animals and humans and supports One-health programs of NDA.
- Dr. Rolfe attended the Clark County fair and assisted with check-in of the junior livestock contestants' animals and verified Scrapie identification compliance.
- Scrapie slaughter surveillance testing continues, and NDA has collected 127/188 sheep samples and 11/23 goat samples for Fiscal Year 26.
- In January the State Veterinarian presented at four Cattlemen's roundup events on the topic of New World Screw Worm (NWS).
- Nevada transitioned to Stage 4 (unaffected) status from Stage 3 (affected) for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Nevada dairy cattle. Monthly bulk tank testing will continue on all dairies in Nevada.
- State Veterinarian presented at the annual Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association (NEPA) conference in Las Vegas on Secure Food Supply Plans and their role in management of Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks.
- 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 Services

Animal Disease Laboratory

- The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) performed 7,505 tests and/or services.
- The program welcomed Michele Parrillo as Administrative Assistant 2 for the Animal Disease Laboratory.
- ADL's Elko laboratory was successfully inspected on March 11, 2026, by the USDA/APHIS and the site maintains approval to perform equine infectious anemia (EIA) testing.
- Two staff members from the ADL staff successfully participated in the U.S. Food and Drug Grade A Milk Laboratory Evaluation and accreditation of NDA's central milk laboratory. In addition, the Microbiologist IV in Dairy obtained certification as a Laboratory Evaluation Officer for the state.
- The ADL staff successfully participated in the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) for rabies proficiency testing in May 2026.
- In March, the ADL Supervisor virtually attended CDC's Vector Week Conference– National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases.
- The NDA's ADL hosted the annual Nevada Vector Control Association meeting gathering partner agencies state-wide to discuss vector-borne strategies and best practices.
- The ADL has completed an electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) interface to public health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This ELR interfaces non-human rabies testing for real-time reporting.
- The ADL installed and validated automation to support the testing of Equine Infectious Anemia in the state streamlining testing effort to improve workflow and turn-around-time

Dairy/Processing/Auditing

- Inspection staff conducted/completed the following from March 2026 to the time of this report:
 - 20 dairy farm inspections and 18 re-inspections
 - 15 food processing plant inspections and 2 re-inspections
 - 3 single service facility inspection
 - 10 pasteurization equipment testing and sealing tests
 - 15 warning and complaint notices
 - 2 Cease and Desist Letter for craft food permit violations
 - 363 milk sample collections
 - 10 bulk milk hauler evaluation/training/exam
 - 13 milk plant sampler evaluations
 - 2 plant/farm ratings
 - 2 Laboratory Evaluations
 - 9 milk tank truck inspection
 - 5 Food Safety Plan reviews and 0 label reviews
 - Store checks for illegal dairy products
 - 16 Late Fees Calculations and Invoicing
 - 9 Dairy Distribution License Approvals
 - 81 Audits in Progress
 - 12 Consumer Inquiries
 - 3 Complaint Investigations
 - 5 water sample collections
 - 12 Dairy Distribution Program Audits Completed (Detailed, Remittance)
 - 50 Dairy Distribution Program Product Store Investigations

- 138 Retail Milk Price Surveys
- 3 Dairy Coupon and Promotion Request Approvals

- The Dairy Distribution Program currently has 235 dairy distributors licensed.
- Dairy staff commissioned a new robotic pre and post dipping system at the rotary dairy barn
- Dairy staff conducted a plan review of a new goat rotary barn system
- Dairy staff conducted plan reviews for 2 new buttermilk culture systems.
- The Dairy Environmental Health staff and the Dairy Microbiologist attended the Western Milk Seminar in Tacoma WA. The Operations Manager and the Microbiologists were presenters at the conference.
- One staff member attended FDA class “Special Problems in Milk Processing” in Albany NY

Food Safety Program

- Administrative Assistant 1 position and Administration 2 positions have been filled. New staff will start May 26, 2026.

