

# Nevada Board of Agriculture

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



Nevada  
Department  
of Agriculture

**Meeting Location:** Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)  
2300 East St. Louis Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
702-668-4590

<b>Video Conference:</b>	NDA 405 S. 21 <sup>st</sup> Street Sparks, NV 89431 775-353-3601	NDA 4780 East Idaho Street Elko, NV 89801 775-778-0270
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### Agenda

#### 1. Open meeting-call meeting to order by Chairman Snyder at 9:00 a.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Moment of Silent Reflection
- C. Virtual Attendee Reminders
- D. Roll call – Total Attendees (124)
  - Board of Agriculture (12):
    - Jim Snyder
    - Pete Paris
    - Mackenzie Campbell
    - Thomas Baker
    - Heather Lackey
    - David Ruf
    - David Coon
    - Brooke Neubauer
    - Craig Shank, DVM
    - Justin Johnson
    - Debbie Gilmore
    - James Combs
  - Deputy Attorney General Richard Yien (1):
  - Department of Agriculture (21):
    - J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
    - Liz Smith
    - Dillon Davidson
    - Doug Farris
    - Chad Sestanovich
    - William Dawson

- Patricia Hoppe
- Bill Striejewski
- Meghan Brown
- Ciara Ressel
- Melanie Sanchez
- Scott Clifford
- Raymond Saliga
- Jessica Whitfield
- Cathy Balcon
- Julia Miller-Ketcham
- Brittany Mally
- Ian Knight
- Shawna Sabo
- Jake Dawley
- Rashel Clark
- Public Attendees (90):
  - Laura Fuson
  - Judge Robyn Albaeck
  - Iris Jehle-Peppard
  - Lisa Horn
  - Kari Coleman
  - Ashley Canfield
  - Craig Downer
  - Amelia Chapman
  - Tracy Wilson
  - Allison Hinkle
  - Deana Kirk
  - Bonnie Cormier
  - Nicole Hayes
  - Jen Stahl
  - Jill Jackson
  - Corenna Vance
  - Dr. Lori Ugolik
  - Romi Kamberg
  - Catherine Cottrill
  - Jennifer Garrett
  - Lili Wolf
  - Jenny Lesieutre
  - Joel Biakeslee
  - Becky Papa
  - KTNV-Ben Margiott
  - Tammy Albertsen
  - Steve Albertsen
  - Lisa OS
  - Leana
  - Nevada State Parks

- Tyler Kerver,
- Jennifer Dawson,
- Brad Larkin,
- Bob Mergell,
- Jonathan Brunjea
- Susanne Dubois
- Libby Lovig
- Feesers
- Chip Peterson (CCSD)
- Mike Scott
- Robyn Orloff
- KOLO
- Rebecca Johnson
- Doug Bussleman
- Chris Stanciu
- Rebecca Alice Johnson
- Nathan Bare
- DW
- Dawn
- Charlie
- Roy
- George
- Hank
- Tyler
- Orlo
- Jacob
- Hunter
- Duston
- Ben
- Steve Paige
- Brady Miller
- Mark Ono-USDA Aphis WS
- Jay J
- Jason
- Dana
- Noah Bond
- Jenny Jackson
- Annie
- Chad Stephens
- Kaylynn Perez-DCNR
- Nathan
- Bob Mergell-State Parks
- Johnathan Brunjes-NDSP
- Deborah Chapman
- Lynn
- JR

- Trail Kreitzer
- Lindsay Mann
- Douglass Daniels
- Ian Keever
- Zack's Iphone
- 916-200-5814
- 805-338-8577
- Jim Dechambeau
- Louise Martin
- Anamara Boustred
- Alison Hardenbush
- Therese Gine
- Marcy Connington
- Kevin Williams
- Bob Sanni
- Kate Munson
- Kristen McNeill
- Lili Thomas
- Marty Wright
- Tina Brodurille
- Pam Bole
- Jime Nole
- Craig Schank
- Melinda Bluckwell
- Sarah Riggsby
- Richal Thelon
- Terri Farley
- Elizabeth Sotomcyor
- Naomi Duerr
- Kainleon Slazam
- Will Stolzenburg
- Mary Gomez
- Melinda Harnish
- Nancy Davis
- Monica Ross
- Catherine Ripls
- Shermau Swanson
- Sara Riley
- Chametos Mechaun
- Carrie Isclude
- Jody Perkins
- Jim Brake

## 2. Public Comment

- As of 8 a.m. on December 6th, 2024, the Nevada Department of Agriculture received 95 public comments regarding funding repairs in the Virginia Range around Washoe

Lake.

- 82 comments opposed the fencing, citing concerns that the Virginia Range feral horses would lose access to Washoe Lake as a water source, risk being hit by cars, and potentially be sent to slaughter. The opposition highlighted the importance of the horses for tourism, their role in controlling invasive weeds, and concerns about the well-being of other animals, maintenance of the fence, and pushing the horses out of their habitat. There were also suggestions to prioritize fencing in South Reno and to make Washoe Lake State Park a horse park with a bridge connecting it to the Virginia Range.
- 9 comments supported the fencing, citing environmental and public safety concerns, protection of natural resources, and wildlife management areas.
- 2 comments addressed population management, noting that current levels violate the Virginia Range Feral Horse Management Program and harm feed and water quality.
- 2 comments opposed without specifying reasons.
- During the meeting there were 10 more public comment submissions online. 6 were in opposition of the fence, 1 was in opposition without specifying reasons, 2 were neutral and addressed NAC 571 with Trich testing, and 1 comment was in favor of horse management.

#### **In-Person Public Comments (Sparks Office)**

- Louise Martin: A Reno resident opposed the fencing project that will block the Virginia Range Mustangs' access to water sources like Washoe Lake, Steamboat Creek, and various springs. She cited concerns about the inhumane prevention of access to water, potential dangers to wildlife and humans, increased risk of wildfire, and difficulties in maintaining a 23-mile fence line. Louise fears the project will lead to the removal of the historic Virginia Range horses and believes it is a misuse of government funds.
- Maria Ballstray: A Carson City resident voiced her opposition to fencing wild horses from accessing Washoe Lake. She noted the enjoyment and tourism benefits of seeing wild horses, which she believes are an integral part of Nevada's appeal. Maria urged the commission to listen to the majority of residents who cherish the wild horses.
- Naomi Dewar: Reno City Councilwoman for South Reno, emphasized the importance of wild horses to her constituents. She provided an update on a 10-mile fencing project funded by federal ARPA and local contributions, aimed at enhancing safety. Naomi requested the restoration of diversionary feeding to help install the fence and suggested that the Department of Agriculture open other water sources, similar to the City of Reno's efforts. She highlighted the significance of photographing wildlife at Washoe Lake for tourism and expressed a desire for continued partnership with the Nevada Department of Agriculture.
- Jim DeChambeau: A lifelong Nevada resident and horse owner, Jim expressed support for the fencing project to keep wild horses off roadways and prevent vehicle collisions. He highlighted the overpopulation of horses on the Virginia Range and the destruction of bird nesting areas. Jim believes the state needs to be protected from the impact of wild horses and emphasized the need to adhere to appropriate population levels.
- Terry Furling: A local resident and wild horse researcher, Terry opposed the fencing project, arguing that it disrupts the environment and wildlife. He suggested that

fencing animals away from water sources will force them to search for water elsewhere, leading to potential dangers. Terry questioned the reasoning behind the project and urged a more careful consideration of its implications.

- Gina Broderick: Gina highlighted two consequences of fencing horses out of Washoe Lake: increased wildfire risk due to the lack of natural grazing and lost tourism revenue. She shared her experience escorting tourists to see the wild horses and emphasized that visitors come to Nevada specifically for this unique experience. Gina urged collaboration with nonprofit groups to benefit public safety and enhance state revenue.
- Marty Wright: Marty, a wild horse photographer, emphasized the tourism benefits of wild horses. She noted that people travel from around the world to see and photograph them, contributing to the local economy through lodging and dining. Marty called for collaboration with those who appreciate the wild horses and highlighted their coexistence with other wildlife.
- Melissa Blackwell: A Washoe Valley resident, Melissa opposed the fencing project, emphasizing the positive impact of wild horses on at-risk youth through her organization. She suggested practical solutions such as more warning signs and open fences on the south end of the lake to allow horses to wander naturally.
- Catherine Ryals: A long-time Nevada resident, Catherine emphasized the presence of wildlife on the Virginia Range and the positive impact of wild horses. She urged the Department of Agriculture to work with the city of Reno and wild horse advocates to protect and promote wild horses rather than eradicate them.
- Sarah: A long-time Washoe Valley resident, Sarah opposed the fencing project, suspecting it was driven by development interests. She emphasized the impact on all wildlife, not just horses, and argued that fencing off water sources would force animals into residential areas.
- Richard Phelan: An East Washoe Valley resident and commercial driver, Richard emphasized that speeding is the main problem leading to vehicle-horse collisions on East Lake. He called for more enforcement, signage, and patrols to keep speed limits down and save lives.
- Nancy Davis: A long-time Nevada resident, Nancy believes the real problem is people, not wild horses. She suggested that fencing is not the answer and emphasized the need for humane management of horse populations. Nancy expressed her love for all wildlife and opposed the idea of fencing them out from water sources.
- Coalition for Healthy Nevada Associates: Emphasized the need for proper management of horse populations to maintain wildlife habitats and perennial vegetation. They supported the use of exclusion fencing when necessary and thanked the Nevada Department of Agriculture for their efforts.

#### **In-Person Public Comments (Las Vegas Office)**

- Joel Wexley: Representing the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, Joel supported efforts to manage horse populations to benefit indigenous wildlife and their habitats. He emphasized the importance of reducing horse numbers to appropriate levels to protect wildlife and natural resources.
- Jenny Lucia: Representing the Coalition of Healthy Nevada Lands, Jenny supported NDA proposals for fencing the Virginia Range to manage the

overpopulation of stray horses. She emphasized the adverse effects of overpopulation on rangelands, water sources, conservation areas, and public safety. Jenny called for reducing the number of horses to a sustainable level and developing a fertility control program, highlighting the ineffective management of the current population levels.

#### **In-Person Public Comments (Elko Office)**

- Lily Wolf: Lily expressed opposition to the proposed changes to NAC 571, arguing that mandatory annual trichomoniasis testing is unnecessary and burdensome to cattle producers. She noted that the current regulation is effective and questioned the need for five years of testing for neighboring ranches with negative results. Lily urged the board to maintain the existing regulation.
- Jennifer Garrett: Jennifer also opposed the proposed changes to NAC 571, highlighting that trichomoniasis has affected less than 1% of bulls over the last 11 years. She praised the Department of Agriculture's enforcement of the current regulation during a recent outbreak and argued that the existing measures are sufficient. Jennifer called for the board to reject the proposed changes, which she sees as an unnecessary burden.

#### **Zoom Public Comments**

- Craig Downer: A wildlife ecologist from Minden, Nevada, representing the Wild Horse and Burro Fund. Craig opposed the fencing of wild horses from Washoe Lake, emphasizing the critical habitat and the harmonious adaptation of these animals. He suggested natural overpasses, increased signage, and strategic fencing to mitigate conflicts with traffic and protect sensitive wildlife habitats. Craig called for careful study and consideration of the positive benefits horses contribute to ecosystems and offered his assistance as a professional wildlife ecologist.
- Tracy Wilson: Nevada State Director for American Wild Horse Conservation. Tracy reported on the successful fertility control program initiated in April 2019, reducing foal births and stabilizing the wild horse population. She expressed concern over the allocation of federal earmark funds, highlighting the lack of fencing in high-priority areas like South Reno and Fernley. Tracy strongly opposed the 23 miles of planned fencing, arguing it would cut horses off from water sources and increase wildfire danger. She called for halting the fencing project and reallocating funds to the highest priority public safety areas.
- Iris Julie Popard: A Washoe County resident, Iris expressed strong opposition to the 23-mile fencing project, questioning why the Nevada Department of Agriculture's funds are not being allocated to higher-need areas like South Reno. She raised concerns about the lack of a NEPA permit and the increased wildfire risk. Iris emphasized the unique value of wild horses to Nevada's identity and tourism and called for greater transparency and collaboration with wild horse advocate groups.
- Steve Page: A field representative with American Wild Horse Conservation, Steve called for an immediate halt to the 23-mile fencing project in the Washoe Lake area. He emphasized that Washoe Lake is critical for public access to wild horses, which supports ecotourism. Steve argued that the fencing would cut off horses from a reliable water source and increase wildfire danger due to the lack of

grazing.

- Dina Kirk: Nevada Operations Coordinator for American Wild Horse Conservation, Dina criticized the lack of transparency around the 23-mile fencing project, questioning who would maintain the fence and highlighting past issues with maintaining fences. She called for halting the project and reallocating funds to higher-priority public safety areas while improving transparency with the public.
- Laura Fusen: A Carson City resident, Laura proposed making Washoe State Park a dedicated wild horse park, allowing the public to view wild horses in their natural environment. She suggested building wildlife bridges to facilitate animal migration and emphasized the tourism potential of such a park. Laura urged against fencing off Washoe Lake and advocated for considering wild horses as a valuable natural resource for Nevada.
- Jen Stahl: A lifetime horse lover and Steamboat Valley resident, Jen criticized the NDA for using funds to build a fence that deprives wild horses of natural water sources like Washoe Lake and Steamboat Valley. She emphasized that public safety and horse welfare would be better served by funding South Reno's fencing projects and approving diversionary feeding sites. Jen called for transparency from the NDA and urged them to assist in managing the horses rather than hindering efforts.

### 3. Minutes

- A. \*Approve June 4, 2024 meeting minutes (*for possible action*)
- Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

### 4. Board Management

- A. \*Discussion of possible Board Meeting dates for 2025. Other possible dates may be discussed as well. (*for possible action*)
- J.J. Goicoechea, Director stated the March dates are around the Legislative session, so he asked Board members to be flexible around that timeframe.
  - Motion to accept the Thursday 2025 meeting dates passed unanimously.

Location	Date (Wednesday)	Date (Thursday)
Sparks, NV	March 5 <sup>th</sup>	March 6 <sup>th</sup>
Sparks, NV	June 4 <sup>th</sup>	June 5 <sup>th</sup>
Elko, NV	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	September 4 <sup>th</sup>
Las Vegas, NV	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	December 4 <sup>th</sup>

- B. Board Member Updates on Represented Industries (for information only)

- Hank Combs: representing general agriculture, has spent his entire life in Las Vegas. He operates a hog farm and is involved in livestock, including cattle and sheep, as a sixth-generation farmer originally from Kentucky and California. Hank expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to share his experiences.



- Tom Baker: from White Pine County, discussed public lands and the condition of the ranges in his area. He noted that the ranges are in relatively good condition, thanks to a beneficial winter storm last year, followed by some monsoonal moisture. However, he mentioned that the ranges are still spotty in some places, despite the good water year. Tom thanked the group for their attention.
- Debbie Gilmore: from Lyon County and is representing Specialty Crops, highlighted her role as a fourth-generation beekeeper and lavender producer from Mason Valley. She discussed the significant challenges faced by beekeepers, including an 80% decline in honey production in many areas. Debbie noted that this decline is not just limited to Nevada but also affects other states and countries. She mentioned the national average loss of honeybees is at its highest in 14 years, making it a difficult time for beekeepers and honeybees. Debbie expressed her appreciation for being part of the discussion and sharing ideas, though she noted that conclusive solutions may take time.
- Mackenzie Campbell: representing petroleum, provided updates on industry issues. She mentioned the anticipated return of AB 294, the tobacco flavor ban, in the upcoming session and the monitoring of California's ABX 2-1 bill regarding refinery reserves. Mackenzie assured the group that, although no changes are expected in Nevada at the moment, they are closely watching for future supply disruptions and price increases. She also shared positive news about the adoption of "tap to pay" systems in convenience stores, which help prevent fraud. Mackenzie announced the rebranding of their association to the Energy Convenience Association of Nevada (ECAN) and the upcoming first legislative day for the industry on April 7th.
- Brooke Neubauer: representing supplemental nutrition, shared that the average Nevadan household spends \$295 per week on groceries, the fourth highest in the nation. She highlighted the popularity of honey among seniors, which they purchase locally. Brooke emphasized the importance of their recent survey of 7,100 people, where 83% reported relying on TFAP for three meals a day, and 91% experienced better health outcomes. She expressed gratitude for the work done by the team and discussed the need for strategic food distribution to support food-insecure neighbors. Brooke plans to collaborate with Melanie for social media content to raise awareness and highlighted the importance of making people self-sustainable through supplemental food as an emergency aid.
- Heather Lackey: representing Pest Control for Douglas County, discussed the impact of weather on pest populations, noting a significant increase in rodent damage. She stressed the importance of educating people on prevention and dealing with the problem. Heather expressed her enjoyment in helping and educating the community and thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak.
- Pete Paris: representing the Nevada Wool Growers on the Board of Ag, reported low lamb prices and a struggling wool market. He mentioned the ongoing labor issues and the reliance of many growers on snow for winter, which has been scarce. This has led to difficulties such as hauling water in zero weather. Pete hopes for a better spring, summer, and year ahead.

**Chairman Snyder called for a break at 10:30 a.m.**

## **Chairman Snyder called the meeting back to order at 10:40 a.m.**

- David Ruf: recently appointed for the nursery industry, made phone calls to others in the state and found no major concerns. He mentioned discussions with Meghan about the upcoming proposal on pesticide fees.
- Craig Shank: representing Veterinary Medicine, commended the bird control efforts facilitated by the Department of Agriculture. He raised concerns about highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in neighboring states and its potential risk to Nevada. Craig also discussed new regulations mandating RFID tags for cattle and the challenges faced by small hobby farms. He expressed a need for better monitoring and documentation at sale barns.
- Justin Johnson: had no comments at this time.
- Jim Snyder: representing producers in Lyon County, reported difficulties due to drought. He mentioned a good year for garlic and onion crops and expressed his appreciation for the board and staff's dedication to agriculture. Jim found it gratifying to be among such dedicated individuals.

## **5. Director's Report**

### **A. Report – J.J. Goicoechea, Director (*for information only*)**

- Recognition of Anniversary: The director took a moment to recognize the anniversary of the University of Nevada Las Vegas shooting that occurred one year ago. Acknowledgment was given to those who responded and those who lost their lives.
- State Veterinarian Update: The new state veterinarian has been selected and will start on January 6th. He also announced due to a nationwide shortage of the RB51 brucellosis vaccine, the vaccination requirement is temporarily waived to avoid stopping commerce. Cattle staying in-state will be vaccinated after the first of the year when the vaccine becomes available, and no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Additionally, the department worked with USDA Veterinary Services to secure an additional 20,000 brucellosis vaccination tags.
- H5N1 Situation: There have been three positive detections of H5N1, all three herds are associated with one premise. The director traveled to meet with dairy producers, the Dairy Council, Nevada Farm Bureau, and Nevada Cattlemen's to discuss the situation and ensure awareness. Pasteurization renders the virus inactive, ensuring the milk and food supply remain safe. Relief programs for affected dairies are being worked on, as there is a significant reduction in milk production. Silo testing will be initiated to trace and contain the virus.
- Health and Safety Measures: Biosecurity protocols emphasize hand washing and changing clothes to prevent cross-contamination with backyard poultry or other livestock. A large cache of PPE was delivered to the affected dairy to protect employees. Continuous efforts ensure the dairy has sufficient gloves, eyewear, and aprons.
- Transparent Communication and Future Plans: The board and industry members were informed first about the H5N1 situation to ensure preparedness. The primary message is that food and milk are safe. The department will continue surveillance, in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and USDA Wildlife Services.

- **Budget and Legislative Planning:** The department is in good shape going into the legislature with the governor's support. Some equipment needs and fee-related matters are being addressed. The department is also working with Health and Human Services to transfer the food inspection program to the Department of Agriculture, expanding the environmental inspection team.
- **Navy Base Expansion and Grazing Rights:** The Navy and Fallon Range Training Complex expansion is affecting grazing rights. Negotiations between the Department of Defense, Navy, and ranchers are ongoing, and the department is working hard to support the ranchers. An update will be provided in the next meeting.
- **International and Federal Collaboration:** Meetings with Deputy Secretary Torres Small addressed issues like Mormon crickets and grasshoppers. The director and Dillon Davidson had successful meetings in Washington, D.C. with delegations from Japan, Canada, Australia, South Korea, and Denmark to expand partnerships and trade. There is a national focus on Africa for future trade opportunities.
- **Warehouse Purchase:** A new warehouse has been purchased in Las Vegas, consolidating dry, refrigerated, and frozen storage under one roof. This will save time and increase efficiency.
- **All-Staff Meeting:** The department held its first all-staff meeting since 2019 at the Nugget in Sparks. The meeting focused on team building and improving customer service. It was deemed a success, with positive feedback from attendees. The department looks forward to Ag Day at the legislature on March 18th and is planning the first board meeting around that time in Sparks.
- **Virginia Range Fencing Project:** The department is working with the Bureau of Land Management on a NEPA review for potential fencing areas on the Virginia Range to protect horses and the motoring public. This includes South Reno, Carson City, and Fernley. The NEPA review is comprehensive and will take time. The nearly 6 miles of reconstructed range fence was funded by USDA grant funds through APHIS WS. Coordination with the City of Reno ensures alignment with their fencing efforts.
- **The New World screwworm detection in Mexico** has closed the border to cattle imports, with ongoing efforts to resume imports.

## 6. Division of Administrative Services

### A. Board Update – Cathy Balcon, Administrator *(for information only)*

- We continue our collaboration with the governor's office, finance office, and legislative counsel bureau on the 26, 27 NDA budget. In August NDA partnered with Made in Nevada for the Made in Nevada Connections event, which represented over 65 industry members. Our senior trade officer, Dillon Davidson, led multiple trade missions, and on July 30th, Dillon testified at the U.S. Senate subcommittee on rural business growth and international competition, impacting Nevada's food and agriculture producers.
- The Women's Farm to Food cohort began its fourth year on November 14th with 13 participants. Additionally, the NDA held its first Governor's Conference on Agriculture since 2018 on November 20th, discussing the economic outlook and business opportunities in Nevada's food and agriculture sectors.

- The communications team has completed 48 out of 62 public record requests for 2024. The agriculture literacy team assisted the Nevada FFA Green Hand Conference in October, which was attended by over 150 students.
- We successfully closed our FY24 budget accounts in June, and our fiscal staff is now fully staffed for the first time in five years.
- Measurement standards budget account 4551 is predominantly funded by fees and 0.4% from other sources, including registered service agent fees, device testing fees, metrology fees, public way master licenses, petroleum inspection fees, and a transfer from the DMV for smog testing. This account shows balanced revenue and expenditures from 2022 to 2024, contributing to our administrative services and maintaining financial stability.

## 7. Division of Animal Industry

### A. Board Update – Chad Sestanovich, Administrator *(for information only)*

- The director emailed updated versions of 571 to all board members before the September meeting, and new board members have been informed. The first portion of animal traceability and national surveillance funds was used to purchase tags due to a shortage. Livestock enforcement and brand inspection teams have been active, inspecting nearly 49,000 animals and traveling 35,000 miles since May. Two new positions have been filled and will start on January 6th. Predatory animal control efforts are appreciated, and the final position in this team will also start on January 6th. The ADT rule effective since May has changes in tag distribution, requiring them to be visually and electronically readable. Efforts continue to ensure adequate tag distribution through grants and USDA tags.
- Every producer needs a premise ID through the USDA. We streamlined this process by adding a form on our website for easy submission, which is then forwarded to the USDA for assigning premise IDs. Once assigned, producers can apply for tags. Orange tags are for brucellosis vaccination and are distributed based on producer needs, while white tags are reserved for veterinarians for regulatory work. We received an additional 20,000 tags and distribute them to veterinarians in small doses. Efforts are in place to ensure all tags are properly allocated and monitored.
- Positive herds in the state have led to 21 hold orders over 150 miles. An additional eight positive bulls were reported today, surpassing the yearly average for the past decade. Unusual West Nile virus cases in northern counties have been noted, with Spark's lab performing well on testing. The Elko lab has reopened for Coggins and Tric testing. The dairy sector is fully staffed, with ongoing USDA tag allocations being creatively managed.

## 8. Division of Food and Nutrition

### A. Board Update – Patricia Hoppe, Administrator *(for information only)*

- The TFAP program received a USDA grant worth over \$600,000 and an additional \$537,000 from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The senior nutrition program received \$256,000 in CCC funds, supporting the CSFP and enabling food purchases, including fresh produce. The program's caseload is at

96%. Two rounds of NCFA grants for food insecurity are ongoing. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada's Elko warehouse closed escrow and renovations are underway.

- Home Feed Nevada ARPA funds are set to expire on June 30, 2025, but will be used up before then. The USDA announced an additional \$500 billion for LFPA funding, and we plan to apply.
- Community nutrition updates include successful approval of six new sponsors through subgrant funding and expansion of the Farm to School program. We plan a second round of funding for more projects. The Nevada school wellness policy now includes carbonated calorie-free beverages and fundraising opportunities. A public survey on the policy update received positive feedback.
- The Southern Warehouse manages USDA foods for various school programs and the senior nutrition program, handling dry, cold, and frozen products. Processed foods and occasional bonus products come through the warehouse, reducing food loss and damage. The projected move-in date is January 2025. Federal funds will be used to purchase a new semi-tractor trailer and a learning management system to meet federal training requirements.

## 9. Division of Measurement Standards

### A. Board Update – Bill Striejewski, Administrator (*for information only*)

- Weights and Measures Program: Certifies over 50,000 licensed devices across the state, from small scales to highway truck scales, and liquid devices like gas pumps.
- Petroleum Technology Program: Ensures gas station dispensers are accurate in volume and pricing. Samples are tested for compliance at labs in Sparks and Las Vegas. Non-compliant devices are repaired by registered service agents (RSAs).
- Metrology Program: Maintains state standards for mass and volume, checking weight kits and volumetric test measures used by inspectors and RSAs.
- Livestock Inspections: Improved communication in 2024 led to more efficient inspections, with plans to improve further in 2025.
- Device Invoicing: Proactive communication reduced late payments and returned invoices, with fewer issues thanks to reminder letters.
- Complaint Handling: Rising fuel prices led to increased public complaints about fuel quality and dispenser performance. These complaints are prioritized and addressed promptly.
- Replacement Trucks: Efforts to replace older inspection trucks are ongoing, with new trucks being rolled into service. A new heavy truck for the Las Vegas office is expected in early 2025.
- Legislative Update: The bill draft request (BDR) has been accepted as Assembly Bill 29. It aims to modernize NRS 590, addressing current practices like digital signs and loyalty programs without financial impact on the department.
- California Legislation Impact: Recent California legislation (Bill AD 2-1) may affect Nevada's fuel supply. Monitoring developments is crucial, as a Southern California refinery's closure may influence future outcomes.

## 10. Plant Health and Compliance

A. Board Update – Meghan Brown, Administrator (*for information only*)

- Welcome to the new board members. Reach out for industry-specific needs or questions. Ray, our new deputy administrator for Plant Health Compliance, is introduced. Three NAC changes are in progress, with one moving forward involving an increase in the pesticide registration fee. A hybrid workshop is scheduled for December 12th. NEPA policy reviews for Nevada projects, solar, and greater sage grouse continue, with comments submitted for the governor's consistency review on the greater sage grouse.
- The plant pathology program received 1,800 samples, with two fungal organisms found in Southern Nevada. Allium inspections concluded with two fields under quarantine for white rot. The seed certification program inspected six crops with no positive findings and is in the middle of winter potato inspections. The native seed program received additional funding for the contract grow-out program. Five producers are growing six species under the foundation fee program. The sage brush ecosystem program is working on credit projects and management plans.
- All labs are now using the laboratory information system. The crops program is working on funding for specialty crop block grants. The onion shipping point inspection season saw an increase in exports. High path avian influenza impacted egg laying facilities, affecting cage-free egg availability and pricing. The department is addressing this with partners and the governor's office.
- Phytosanitary inspections and export markets are up. The hemp program is stable, and efforts to update the THC level definition in NAC continue. The noxious weed program is focused on early detection, rapid response, with regional meetings set. 493 new reports have been received, with enforcement underway. NDOT coordination addressed scotch thistle along I-80. A new reporting form for Mormon cricket and grasshopper infestations has been introduced. NEPA completion is expected to overlap with the Mormon cricket and grasshopper season. The BLM's new policy limits treatments in sage-grouse habitats. The Nevada Department of Agriculture reported no disease in honeybee samples but detected other colony dynamics.
- The pest control and licensing division completed inspections to ensure responsible pesticide use. The wood-destroying pest inspection report fee was waived. Efforts to create an online reporting platform continue.

## 11. Public Comment

- Liz Lord: Liz, a South Reno resident, expressed concern about the wild horse situation, particularly the lack of feeding sites, which she believes is a public safety issue as horses are getting run over. She emphasized the importance of maintaining feed sites for the safety of both horses and humans and highlighted her long-standing appreciation for Nevada's wild horses.
- Jim DiChamo: Jim clarified his earlier remarks, stating that no one hates the horses, but they need to be kept at appropriate numbers. He cited that Nevada's appropriate number of wild horses is 12,811, but current numbers far exceed this. Jim argued that feeding wild horses domesticates them and that the increase in horse numbers has adversely affected the range and wildlife, such as deer. He apologized for any disruption his comments may have caused earlier.



**12. Final Roll Call**

**13. Adjournment**

**Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.**