

March 19, 2026, Board Report

Office of the Director



Nevada
Department
of Agriculture

Industry / External

- Attended weekly/monthly calls regarding the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 detections with NASDA, industry leaders, affected state agencies, as well as the following agencies and organizations:
 - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - National Association of State Animal Health Officials
 - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
 - National Governors Association
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - U.S. CattleTrace
 - Public Lands Council Board
- Attended the following meetings:
 - Council on Food Security
 - Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
 - Western States Federal Rules virtual discussions
 - Monthly coordination meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife
 - Quarterly meeting with USDA-Wildlife Services
 - Quarterly meeting with the University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources
 - Weekly construction coordination meetings with Nevada Western Heritage Center Alliance, Reno Rodeo and other partners regarding the infrastructure project at the Nevada State Fairgrounds
 - Chaired Fallon Range Training Complex Intergovernmental Executive Committee
- Provided opening remarks at the annual meeting of the American Sheep Industry Association and welcomed Nevada sheep producers at a reception hosted by the NDA.
- Attended NASDA's Winter Policy Meeting in Washington, D.C., to meet with agricultural leaders from throughout the nation. Participation included engagement with the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture and Western United States Agricultural Trade Association to promote interstate collaboration.
- Addressed attendees of the annual Nevada State Beekeepers Conference, sponsored by Mason Valley Beekeepers.

Partner Coordination

- Continued negotiations with the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority related to the management responsibilities for the Nevada State Fairgrounds.

- Regular coordination with the Nevada Western Heritage Center Alliance, Reno Rodeo and other stakeholders on strategic investment needs to revitalize the Fairgrounds, including paving and infrastructure upgrades.
- Continued coordination with the Nevada Junior Livestock Show Board, 4-H, FFA, Reno Rodeo, Next Generation Bull Riding and other partners to plan the official State Fair of Nevada, scheduled to return June 11-13 at the Fairgrounds in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes 551.030.
- Worked with Governor's Office, the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and other stakeholders to resolve agriculture labor concerns and support efforts to promote fair and appropriate wage determinations.
- Partnered with UNR to tour Texas Tech University's veterinary school to assess the feasibility of establishing a public veterinary school in Nevada.

Executive

- Attended Governor Lombardo's Natural Resources Sub-Cabinet meeting.
- Accepted appointment to the Governor's Fuel Resiliency Committee, a statewide advisory board tasked with strengthening Nevada's preparedness and response to potential fuel supply disruptions. To date, two meetings have been held addressing fuel resiliency in the state and a presentation was made related to NDA's roles and responsibilities in fuel distribution in Nevada.
- Attended meetings in Washington, D.C., with leadership from the Food and Drug Administration and USDA, as well as with Nevada's congressional delegation and House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and Senate Agriculture Committee staff to advance the state's agricultural priorities. Topics included funding for the Mormon cricket and grasshopper suppression program and Farm Bill language, wildland fire suppression, H2A worker visas, local food procurement programs, and APHIS Wildlife Services and Veterinary Services.
- Presented agency priorities, key initiatives and emerging needs to the Nevada Legislature's joint Interim Committee on Natural Resources.
- Presented to the Legislative Commission regarding regulations adopted by the State Quarantine Officer.
- Attended the Governor's Office of Energy's kickoff meeting to support the development of the 2026 State Energy Security Plan.

Internal

- In preparation for the 2027 Legislative Session, developed a key policy bill draft request related to departmental reorganization and the establishment of a new Division of Food Safety.