

March 19, 2025, 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 in Dairy Cows with industry leaders, affected state agencies, as well as the following agencies and organizations:
 - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - National Association of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO)
 - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
 - National Governors Association (NGA)
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - U.S. CattleTrace
 - National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Completed numerous interviews with local and national outlets regarding HPAI in an effort to safeguard public health, promote transparency, and support industry partners
- Held multiple dairy industry meetings with Nevada dairy producers and Dairy Farmer of America related to HPAI.
- Participated in a Department of Interior briefing about the National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework for invasive species management
- Engaged in the Western Governors Association Greater Sage Grouse Task Force
- Participated in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) Meat and Animal Science Working Group
- Attended the following meetings:
 - NASDA Food Systems and Nutrition Policy Committee
 - NASDA Animal Agriculture Policy Committee
 - Nevada Council on Food Security
 - Nevada Livestock Emergency Preparedness
 - Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
 - Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture business meeting
- Addressed attendees of the League Footing Academies and Symposium
- Presented on Ranch Biosecurity and Emergency Planning at Cattle Con 2025 in Texas
- Delivered policy updates to attendees of the Nevada Small Farms Conference
- Attended policy committee meetings during the NASDA Winter Policy Conference

Partner Coordination

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - Submitted comments regarding the following projects:
 - Proposed creation of the Jackson Mountains Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plan
 - Proposed re-establishment of Desert Bighorn Sheep in the Cortez Mountains

- Entered into Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act process for the Adobe Hills and Jackstone Term Permit Renewal
- Participated in cooperative meeting regarding Section 368 Energy Corridors
- Continued ongoing partnership on the Resource Management Plan Amendment
- Attended meeting regarding Greenlink North Transmission Project
- Continued partnership on the Virginia Range public safety fencing project
- USDA-Wildlife Services
 - Coordinated surveillance, testing, and starling removal efforts to prevent the spread of HPAI
- Met with stakeholders regarding stewardship of the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center, including:
 - Nevada Division of State Lands
 - Reno Rodeo
 - Western Heritage Alliance
 - Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority
 - Washoe County
- Quarterly Meetings
 - BLM
 - CABNR
 - Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square
 - USDA-Wildlife Services

Executive

- Communicated closely with Senator Cortez Masto and Congressman Mark Amodei about the following issues:
 - Response to HPAI
 - Agency needs arising from the freeze of federal funding
 - Need for additional support to move forward with the treatment of Mormon Crickets
 - Virginia Range public safety fencing project
- Participated in briefing with USDA leadership regarding avian flu response plan
- Accepted appointment to the National Advisory Committee for Implementation of the BLM Public Lands Rule Committee
- Reported to the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security regarding H5N1 and its impact on the agricultural sector
- Attended Governor's Cabinet meeting
- Invoked authority of the State Quarantine Officer to order the temporary suspension of cage-free egg law
- Met with Governor's Office and Legislative Counsel Bureau staff regarding NDA budget
- Presented to the Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee
- Delivered an overview of the Nevada Department of Agriculture to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Natural Resources
- Met with the following lawmakers regarding measures being proposed during the 83rd Legislative Session:
 - Assemblymember Anderson

- Assemblymember DeLong
- Assemblymember Gray
- Assemblymember Goulding
- Assemblymember Hansen
- Assemblymember La Rue Hatch
- Assemblymember Koenig
- Assemblymember O'Neill
- Assemblymember Roth
- Assemblymember Watts
- Senator Cruz-Crawford
- Senator Daly
- Senator Doñate
- Senator Hansen
- Senator Krasner
- Senator Taylor

Internal

- Welcomed Dr. Peter Rolfe, DVM, as State Veterinarian