

September 9, 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
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - National Association of State Animal Health Officials
 - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
 - National Governors Association
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - U.S. CattleTrace
 - National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Attended the following meetings:
 - Council on Food Security
 - Intergovernmental Executive Committee
 - N-4 State Grazing Board Annual Meeting
 - Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
 - Western States Federal Rules virtual discussions
 - Public Lands Council Board Meeting
 - U.S. Cattle Trace Board of Directors
 - Nevada Cattlemen's Association Board Meeting
 - Monthly coordination meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife
 - Quarterly meetings with BLM and USDA-Wildlife Services
- Presented about Nevada's role and responsibilities in preventing and responding to livestock and animal disease outbreaks at a livestock biosecurity workshop in Elko.
- Partnered with the Nevada Western Heritage Center Alliance to host a ceremonial signing of Assembly Bill 333 with Governor Joe Lombardo.
- Announced plans for the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) to revive the official Nevada State Fair and reestablish the event at the State Fairgrounds in June of 2026, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 551.030.
 - The Nevada Junior Livestock Show Board unanimously voted to move its show and sale to the Nevada State Fair in 2026.
 - The NDA is working with other key groups—including 4-H, FFA, and the Nevada Agricultural Foundation—to ensure the promotion of agriculture is central to the fair.
- Addressed attendees at the Third Annual Western Water, Ag, and Environmental Law Conference in Reno.

- Delivered remarks at the Child and Adult Care Food Program National Professional Association Annual Conference in Las Vegas.
- Presented at the National Council on Weights and Measures Annual Meeting in Reno.
- Fostered collaboration on policies impacting Western agriculture with regional leaders at the annual meeting of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture in Whitefish, Montana.
- Presented on Virginia Range feral/estray horse management at the Washoe County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Partner Coordination

- BLM
 - NDA signed on as a cooperating agency on the Samantha Solar project, a proposed photovoltaic facility in White Pine County.
 - The department submitted additional comments regarding the following projects:
 - Proposed construction of the Dodge Flat photovoltaic facility in Washoe County.
 - Proposed Silver King Herd Management Area Plan.
 - Proposed Robinson Summit Substation Expansion in Ely.
 - Proposed County Line Mine Plan of Operations, overlapping three livestock grazing allotments in Nye and Mineral Counties.
 - Proposed Lamoille Summit Trail System in Elko County.
 - Proposed creation of the Callaghan Complex.
- Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and Nevada Health Authority
 - Coordinated with leadership at both agencies to facilitate the transfer of the state's food inspection program to the NDA. As mandated by the Legislature, 12 staff members were transferred to the NDA, expanding existing food safety operations under the Division of Animal Industry.
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
 - Submitted comments on the 2025-2029 Nonpoint Source Pollution State Management Plan.
- USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Provided feedback on the proposed revisions to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Submitted comments regarding the proposed listing of the Fish Lake Valley tui chub under the Endangered Species Act.

Executive

- Met with Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Martin Makary in Washington, D.C., to discuss public health and regulatory priorities and strengthen collaboration with NDA's federal counterparts.
- Attended Governor Lombardo's Natural Resources Sub-Cabinet and full Cabinet meetings.
- Appeared before the Legislative Commission as State Quarantine Officer, requesting an extension of regulation R001-23 to streamline trichomoniasis testing and enhance disease control throughout the state.

Internal

- Honored Jeff Knight, State Entomologist, and Dr. Keith Forbes, Veterinarian Diagnostician, upon their retirement after more than a combined 60 years of public service.
- Welcomed Bryant McDowell as State Entomologist.
- Welcomed Bob Ragar as the Deputy Administrator of the Division of Animal Industry.