



June 4, 2025, Board Report

Division of Plant Health and Compliance

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- The division is working on changes to several sections of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) under department jurisdiction.
 - A hearing to adopt an amendment to NAC 586 was held on March 3, 2025, to increase the annual registration fee for each pesticide from \$125 to \$281. A hearing to adopt this regulation as a permanent amendment is tentatively scheduled for July 22, 2025.
 - The division has received drafted language from the LCB for amendments to NAC 555 to change training requirements for licensed pesticide applicators and will be releasing a Small Business Impact Survey on May 27, 2025 prior to conducting workshops and hearings after the close of the legislative session.
 - The division will also propose an amendment to NAC 555 in support of efforts to modernize wood-destroying pest inspection reports to reduce reporting burden on industry and increase the ability for regulatory oversight.
 - NAC 557 will be updating the definition to include “Total” tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). It also outlines testing procedures for hemp, requiring compliance with federal standards.

Program Updates

Plant Pathology

- A rust disease of Pinks (*Dianthus* sp.) was found during a nursery inspection and confirmed in the laboratory. This disease is caused by a rust fungus (*Puccinia* sp.) that kills almost all the foliage of the plant. The nursery was advised to destroy symptomatic plants and treat the rest of the plants before the sale.
- A disease called necrotic leaf spot was found on Oregon Holly-grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) in a nursery and confirmed in the laboratory. The disease is caused by *Phyllosticta* sp., an important fungal pathogen. The nursery was advised to destroy symptomatic plants and treat the rest of the plants before the sale.

Seed

- A total of 73 seed viability tests across over 60 species of seed were performed from February to April. This is a dramatic increase in native seed testing as the University of Nevada, Reno has chosen Nevada Department of Agriculture seed testing services for its native seed processing facility.
- Applications for the Spring round of the Foundation Seed Program were evaluated on April 1. Three applicants were selected to receive awards. Awardees will receive source-verified foundation seed for field production to increase the quantity of seed available for restoration projects. A portion of harvested seed will be returned to NDA for distribution to future awardees. Growers are able to sell the remaining seed or use it to further increase their native seed production.

Chemistry

- The Division is pursuing several interlocal agreements to increase utilization of our chemistry lab and provide value to state and local agencies across various sectors.

Total Samples Analyzed

Sample Type	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Ground / Surface Water	56	24	189
HEMP (Percentage THC analysis)	118	33	27
Pesticide Formulation / Use Dilution	95	78	65
Pesticide Residue (EPA Enforcement)	35	18	29

**Data current as of May 6, 2025*

Crops

Export/Shipping Point

- As of April 1, 2025, 371 Federal and State Phytosanitary certifications were issued in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 25, allowing for the export of 73,356,790 pounds of varying commodities, including hay, mushroom spawn, onions, sage, nursery stock, and wood barrels. 638 State and Federal Phytosanitary certificates, totaling 100,767,136 pounds, were issued during the same time in SFY 24.
- The onion shipping point inspection season began in August 2025 and ended on April 21, 2025 and has seen a 7.3% decrease in onion exports as compared to the same time last year.

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of onions exported to Canada through the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Market Service's Branch Internal Quality Management System. Inspections for this program are not typically conducted during the months of May, June, or July, as the season for shipping onions for our region ends typically in April.

Onion Exports to Canada (lbs)

Month	FY24	FY25
July	0	0
August	0	173,656
September	769,060	622,886
October	765,700	603,320
November	962,470	651,820
December	697,200	942,370
January	631,750	663,120
February	308,400	303,880
March	204,200	178,040
April	379,340	110,360
Total	4,584,790	4,249,492*

**Data current as of May 1, 2025*

International Commodity Exports (lbs)

Month	FY24	FY25
July	3,421,749	0
August	2,988,989	173,656
September	2,988,990	622,886
October	5,081,882	7,586,077
November	14,021,478	9,556,477
December	4,396,231	10,335,827
January	11,029,309	6,508,253
February	12,995,939	4,650,380
March	14,857,787	8,787,693
April	22,558,381	6,709,337*
May	10,132,178	
June	7,012,855	

**Data current as of May 1, 2025*

Phytosanitary Certificate Inspections

Month	FY24	FY25
July	22	33
August	30	36
September	51	43
October	66	36
November	65	44
December	48	47
January	57	36
February	83	30
March	89	32
April	124	34
May	126	
June	35	

**Data current as of May 1, 2025*

Hemp

- The Department began accepting applications for the 2025 calendar year on December 15, 2024. As of May 1, staff have reviewed and approved 10 grower applications and 8 handler applications, covering 9.61 acres of outdoor production and 208,398 sq. ft. of indoor production area. Post-planting and preharvest inspections are expected to begin in May to verify production area and THC concentrations in harvested product.

Specialty Crop Block Grant

- The NDA has preliminarily selected grant application for award of the Specialty Crop Block Grant to enhance the viability of specialty crops in the state of Nevada. The Department awaits further information from the USDA to continue the process.

Food Safety

- Program staff will be conducting three food safety trainings per month for Nevada producers with a special focus on very small producers. Trainings are conducted online to maximize reach and allow flexibility for producers. These trainings provide food safety guidance with an emphasis on establishing a culture of food safety in all facilities, regardless of size.

FY25 Produce Certificates

Month	Producer Certificates Issued	Vendor Certificates Issued
February	14	2
March	258	10
April	52	4

**Data current as of May 1, 2025*

Noxious Weeds

- The noxious weeds program has sent 825 letters to property and nursery owners in early season outreach campaigns targeting scotch thistle and yellow starthistle in Northern Nevada and green fountaingrass in Southern Nevada. Outreach campaigns target areas with known noxious weed infestations prior to survey and enforcement efforts to inform community members of regulatory requirements and importance of controlling noxious weeds.
- The program has sent 76 enforcement letters to properties with existing noxious weeds infestations. These letters require property owners to submit management plans and control the weeds identified during survey work. The program has developed an online tool to assist in the development and submission of weed management plans [here](#).
- The program continues to work with conservation and weed management districts in identifying local needs and aiding in survey work and regulatory support. As part of these efforts, NDA awarded \$37,500 in funding to the Carson Valley Conservation District to control priority noxious weed species along the Carson River.
- The Nevada Department of Transportation liaison has reviewed 24 Weed Management Plans for construction projects, approved 23 of these plans, and conducted 26 site visits so far in FY25.
- The program has issued 39 Weed Free certificates to gravel, forage, and mulch producers, certifying that their products are substantially free of noxious weeds.
- The program held the 2nd annual Nevada Biological Strategic meeting for control of weed species using biological controls, continuing efforts with state and federal partners to develop a statewide strategic plan for biological control of noxious weeds.
- The program has conducted 57 outreach events since FY25.

Entomology

- Entomology staff developed an online [Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Survey and Treatment Map](#), providing real time survey data and public reports of infestations.
- The Department has received 149 reports this calendar year. At this time last year, NDA received 418 reports.
- Exotic and invasive species surveys are underway; seasonal positions have been hired to support these efforts.

FY25 Entomology Activities

Month	Count
Palm Weevil Commodities	0
Palm pest survey	0
Asian Defoliator Surveys	1
CAPS Infrastructure	1
CAPS Exotic Wood Borer	1
CAPS Spongy Moth	1
CAPS Imported Fire Ant	1
Traps placed/surveyed	415
Identification Specimens	22
Identification Emails	7
Identifications Text	0
Identification Phone	0
Education	
Treatments	0
Japanese Beetle Survey	1
European Corn Borer survey	0
State quarantine survey	1
Survey ID	200
Collection processing	2000
Honey Bee Surveys	0
General collection/collecting	1

Licensing/Enforcement

Licensing Activities

- New licenses issued from March 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025:
 - Pest Control Business Licenses – 7

- Pest Control Principals & Operators – 72
- Pest Control Continuing Education Courses Approved - 81

Pest Control Inspections

- The NDA inspectors conduct inspections of pesticide applications with licensed pest control businesses, agricultural producers, pesticide manufacturers, and dealers to ensure safe and responsible pesticide use throughout the supply chain. Inspectors conduct pesticide misuse investigations in response to public complaints, providing investigative reports backed by analysis from the NDA's Chemistry laboratory.

Inspections conducted March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025

Inspection Type	No. of Inspections	Non-Compliance Issues
Agricultural Use	5	0
Non-Agricultural Use	13	9
Marketplace	4	3
Non-Agricultural Records	12	170
RUP Dealer Record Audit	2	0
Producing Establishment	3	1
Investigations	3	0 (3 Ongoing)

Exams administered March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025

Office	No. of Tests Taken
Sparks	81
Las Vegas	455
Elko	6

Ground & Surface Water Monitoring

- The NDA and United States Geological Survey develop and maintain a network of wells and surface water sites to monitor the occurrence of pesticides in Nevada water resources. This network serves as an early warning system for potential effects of pesticide applications and other activities on aquatic resources in Nevada and inform future regulatory efforts.
- Total Ground & Surface Water Samples in Q3 – 77

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

- During the months of March and April, the NDA representative finalized and awarded credits to six private land credit projects, totaling over 37,000 credits, and conserving over 64,000 acres of greater sage-grouse habitat.
- Currently, there are 2 new credit projects enrolled in the Nevada Conservation Credit System.
- Three adaptive management meetings were carried out by the NDA Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) representative as an effort to restart the process. Projects that were deemed completed dealt with pinyon juniper cuttings, design improvements on geothermal facilities, targeted grazing for fuel breaks, fire rehab, meadow restoration, and more.
- In efforts to increase communication and foster credit transfers, the SETT hosted a Credit/Debit proponent workshop, which brought landowners and private industry together in an effort to generate credit sales and gain important feedback on the system from those that have been enrolled.
- On March 11, Assembly Bill 242 was heard in the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs. This bill revises provisions relating to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council in Nevada Revised Statutes 232.162, requiring the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program to set forth, in regulation, methods and formulas used by the habitat quantification tool.