



# June 4, 2024, Board Report

## Division of Plant Health and Compliance

### Division Overview/Program Updates

#### Seed

- To promote native seed as an alternative crop opportunity, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Seed Program, in collaboration with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), hosted its Third Native Seed Road Show at the Washoe State Tree Nursery on April 30, 2024. The event featured the NDF Nursery Program and educated participants on various aspects of the native seed industry.
- NDA Seed Program collaborated with Federal Seeds of Success (SOS) partners to provide seed certification training for incoming SOS collections crews. This training enabled crew members to better understand the complexities of seed certification and will provide SOS collectors and NDA staff with the ability to streamline the service. NDA expects an increase in Source Identified-SOS collections for the 2024 season.

#### Pesticide Program

##### *Operators*

- Pesticide program staff met with a representative from the Nevada Human Development Corporation (NHDC) regarding farm worker safety and education in Nevada. NHDC is interested in looking for ways to provide support and education to farms through various training and seminars. They focus on assisting farm workers with vocational training, on-the-job training, training-related support services, counseling and case management. The representative is going to accompany NDA's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Specialist since our goals and services are somewhat aligned.

##### *Pesticide Complaint Investigations*

- NDA Pesticide inspection staff are responsible for following up on concerns regarding possible pesticide misuse complaints. On occasion, staff will receive complaints regarding pesticide drift, unlicensed activity, applying in adverse weather conditions, label misuse, dumping, etc., of which some are received via the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) or via the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Below is a list of investigations conducted during state fiscal year (FY) 2024:

| Date      | Ag/Non-Ag | Violation | County    | Complaint  | Form Submitted |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|----------------|
| 7/27/2023 | Ag        | Yes       | Lyon      | Farmer sprayed field occupied by NDA staff.          | Yes            |
| 8/14/2023 | Ag        | Yes       | Lyon      | Aerial application; sprayed too close to individual. | Yes            |
| 8/15/2023 | Ag        | Yes       | Churchill | Farmer spraying too close to neighbor.               | Yes            |

|            |        |     |             |   |              |
|------------|--------|-----|-------------|---|--------------|
| 8/18/2023  | Non-ag | No  | Washoe      | Landscape company killed tree; overuse of herbicide.                            | No           |
| 9/13/2023  | Non-ag | No  | Clark       | Pesticide illegally applied indoors.  | Yes          |
| 10/10/2023 | Non-ag | No  | Washoe      | Complaint about bird poison at Chewy, Inc.                                      | Yes          |
| 10/9/2023  | Ag     | No  | Clark       | Potential pesticide exposure at a marijuana facility.                           | Yes          |
| 10/19/2023 | Non-ag | No  | Carson City | Pesticide drift at Little Lane Village.   | No           |
| 10/31/2023 | Non-ag | No  | Washoe      | Spraying glyphosate within 100 feet of homes/people.                            | Yes via NDEP |
| 11/2/2023  | Market | No  | Washoe      | Special Request from EPA.   | EPA Request  |
| 2/3/2024   | Non-ag | No  | Washoe      | Spraying near trails with no notification.                                      | Yes via NDEP |
| 1/19/2024  | Non-ag | No  | Lyon        | Dumping at transfer station.  | Yes via NDEP |
| 3/28/2024  | Non-ag | No  | Clark       | Echo Bay Recreational Vehicle (RV) Village in Vegas; claimed pesticide drifted. | Yes via NDEP |
| 4/1/2024   | Non-ag | Yes | Clark       | Spraying in wind and rain in Las Vegas.   | Yes via NDEP |
| 4/23/2024  | Non-ag | Yes | Douglas     | Drift from landscaper in Gardnerville.  | Yes          |
| 5/6/2024   | Non-ag | No  | Washoe      | Over application throughout Homeowner's Association (HOA).                      | Yes          |
| 5/6/2024   | Non-ag | Yes | Douglas     | Neighbor drenched ground near tree in Gardnerville.                             | Yes          |

## Nursery

- Licensed Nurseries: 1123
- Nursery Inspections: 91
- Violations Corrected: 20
- Imported Shipment Notifications: 171
  - Intercepted shipment of Tamarisk, a noxious weed, in transit. Mail carrier returned to sender.
- Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Quarantine Citrus Inspections: 33
- Compliance Agreement Activity
  - Renewed Colorado Potato Beetle Agreements with Utah, Idaho, and Arizona

## Crop

### Hemp

- NDA coordinated with the Nevada Farm Service Agency (FSA) to ensure that growers completed their crop reporting through FSA. This is a federal requirement.
- NDA submitted a draft Hemp State Plan to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for review in hopes of submitting a final plan for adoption by end of the fiscal year.

- The following data reflects hemp samples collected by the NDA and tested for federal compliance, above compliance, and approved crop disposals of non-compliant crops between July 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024.

**Year over Year Samples Tested, Non-Compliant Samples, and Disposals**

| State of Nevada Statistics       | Samples |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 2023 Total Samples Collected =   | 10      |
| 2023 Non-Compliant Samples =     | 1       |
| 2023 Approved Crop Disposals =   | 0       |
| 2023 Approved Crop Remediation = | 1       |
| 2024 Total Samples Collected =   | 28      |
| 2024 Non-Compliant Samples =     | 6       |
| 2024 Approved Crop Disposals =   | 5       |
| 2024 Approved Crop Remediation = | 3       |

*Export/Phytosanitary Inspections*

- At the beginning of 2024 we received a request for potato export phytosanitary inspections that are going to Mexico. Currently we have one (1) inspector in Winnemucca two (2) times a week inspecting potatoes equating to five to eight trucks a day available for shipment. We started inspections at the end of January and will be ongoing potentially until July 2024.
- As of July 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024, 613 federal and state Phytosanitary Certificates have been issued.
- Other items certified for export, that are not measured by weight, but by count totaled 37,144 and included nursery stock and hay.
- The department currently has four (4) agriculturists certified as onion inspectors.
- The department has three newly certified Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) that completed training on April 24, 2024.

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of onions exported in FY 2024.

| Month     | 2023 Pounds Shipped Outside USA | 2024 Pounds Shipped Outside USA |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| July      | 0                               | 0                               |
| August    | 0                               | 0                               |
| September | 978,160                         | 638,310                         |
| October   | 993,300                         | 765,700                         |
| November  | 1,091,010                       | 962,470                         |
| December  | 1,054,225                       | 697,200                         |
| January   | 1,138,964                       | 624,110                         |
| February  | 485,800                         | 517,400                         |
| March     | 393,510                         | 204,200                         |
| April     | 249,250                         | 379,340                         |

*\* Onion pounds are accurate as of April 30, 2024*

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of Phytosanitary Certificates and Pounds Certified in FY 2023 – 2024.

| Month     | FY23 Certs Issued | FY23 Pounds Certified | FY24 Certs Issued | FY24 Pounds Certified |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| July      | 21                | 5,990,970             | 22                | 3,421,749             |
| August    | 23                | 9,300,409             | 30                | 2,988,989             |
| September | 52                | 8,676,105             | 51                | 2,988,990             |
| October   | 54                | 6,050,826             | 66                | 5,081,882.28          |
| November  | 49                | 8,937,081             | 65                | 14,021,478            |
| December  | 21                | 8,047,920             | 48                | 4,396,231             |
| January   | 23                | 3,259,669             | 57                | 11,029,309            |
| February  | 26                | 4,189,289             | 83                | 12,995,939            |
| March     | 31                | 4,483,265             | 89                | 14,857,787            |
| April     | 34                | 3,944,676             | 0                 | 22,558,381            |
| May       | 30                | 1,3816,74             | 0                 | 0                     |
| June      | 26                | 1,752,700             | 0                 | 0                     |

\* FY24 data accurate through April 30, 2024

## Noxious Weeds

### Regulatory Actions

- The NDA noxious weed team has begun to pick up regulatory efforts for Spring. NDA staff met with Spring Creek HOA staff on May 2, 2024 to coordinate regulatory outreach letter efforts. Other follow-up efforts include addressing Swainsonpea and Yellow Starthistle in Humboldt County, African Rue in Churchill county and Yellow Starthistle in Washoe county.

### Nevada's Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Plan

- Nevada's EDRR plan continues to move forward. The NDA noxious weed team hosted the state meeting on February 28, 2024 and regional meetings took place in March.

### Outreach and Education

- The NDA noxious weed team has participated in 24 events for FY24 and has a few more planned for the summer that will wrap up the fiscal year.

### Weed Free

- Weed free forage inspections will increase during first cuts around the end of May. It is anticipated that the Weed Free Certificates issued will increase as well.
  - Weed Free Certificates Issued 37
  - Weed Free Gravel Inspections 45
  - Weed Free Forage Inspections 14
  - Weed Free Mulch Inspections 4

### Biological Control

- The NDA biological control program did begin rearing efforts to increase the availability of Russian Knapweed agent *Jaapillea ivannikovi* in the state.
- Noxious weed staff will be attending the 2024 National Forum on Biological Control.
- NDA successfully hosted the Nevada Strategic Weed Biological Control meeting. Participants traveled from Utah, Idaho, and California and included members from the United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM),

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Conservation Districts, Humboldt Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), and other partners. The goal of this meeting is to reconnect with partners in the state and identify ways to strategically grow a Nevada weed biological control program.

### Chemistry

- The Chemistry laboratory of NDA, as authorized by the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted the specialized nationwide laboratory training. The workshop has 12 pesticide laboratory analysts from across the U.S. and worked on advanced training of laboratory analysts in the many relevant aspects of pesticide compliance, sample collection, handling, processing, analyzing, method selection, equipment operation, data interpretation, and reporting.
- The NDA Hemp program is in the process of getting an initial onsite assessment for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 accreditation. The initial accreditation assessment will be conducted soon.

| Total Samples Analyzed                                   |      |      |                             |
|--|------|------|-----------------------------|
| Type of Sample   | FY22 | FY23 | FY24<br>(7/1/23 to Present) |
| Ground Surface Water (Pesticide Residue Monitor Program) | 73   | 56   | 24                          |
| HEMP (Percentage THC analysis)                           | 118  | 118  | 33                          |
| Pesticide Formulation / Use Dilution                     | 98   | 95   | 55                          |
| Pesticide Residue (EPA Enforcement)                      | 21   | 35   | 7                           |

### Entomology

- Mormon crickets have been reported in Washoe, Pershing, Churchill, Lander, Eureka, White Pine, Humboldt and Elko Counties.
- This season a total of 500 sites have been surveyed. Ground treatments have been done at 48 sites (all BLM) with carbaryl bait.
- Aerial treatments are planned to start the week of May 20, 2024. Approximately 220,000 acres of BLM and private land have been submitted to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ) for approval and contracting. Final acreage will be dependent on funding availability.
- Responded to over 400 reports of crickets and grasshoppers (1).

### Entomology Report on Activities

| Activity   | Number |
|--|--------|
| Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops (as of 01/2024) | 500    |
| Palm Weevil Commodities                          | 1      |
| Palm Pest Survey                                 | 1      |
| Asian Defoliator Surveys                         | 1      |
| Khapra Beetle Surveys                            | 1      |

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| CAPS Infrastructure           | 1      |
| CAPS Exotic Wood Borer        | 1      |
| CAPS Gypsy Moth               | 1      |
| CAPS Pine Shoot Beetle        | 1      |
| CAPS Imported Fire Ant        | 1      |
| Traps placed/surveyed         | 4,859  |
| Identification Specimens      | 443    |
| Identification Emails         | 62     |
| Identifications Text          | 68     |
| Identification Phone          | 2      |
| Education                     | 4,063  |
| Treatments (as of 1/2024)     | 35     |
| Japanese Beetle Survey        | 1      |
| European Corn Borer Survey    | 0      |
| State Quarantine Survey       | 0      |
| Survey Identification         | 71,100 |
| Collection Processing         | 18,850 |
| Honeybee Surveys              | 30     |
| General Collection/Collecting | 60     |

### Industry Impact

- The department will no longer be collecting fees for the Wood Destroying Pest Inspection Report (WDPIR) forms. This is a step forward in meeting and serving the needs of industry as a regulatory agency. The pesticide team is looking to find an alternative to the carbon copy forms currently provided, that will help industry as well as NDA record keeping.