

### **Personnel**

- The division continues to recruit for 2 open Ag Enforcement Officer positions in Elko and Ely. These positions not only oversee the contracted brand inspector staff in those areas, but also receive, respond to, and investigate reports of missing or stolen livestock, animal abuse/neglect, illegal transportation or illegal imports of livestock/plants, animal/plant disease inspections or investigations, or any other NDA division incidents that may require the participation of law enforcement. Long-term vacancies in AEO positions present a negative impact to the agriculture industry due to delays in law enforcement response to incidents requiring their involvement and lack of visual presence of agriculture law enforcement in these areas, which often serves as a deterrent to criminal activity.

### **Investigations**

- The State Veterinarian and NDA law enforcement staff are working in collaboration with USDA/APHIS Investigation and Enforcement Services (IES) in the investigation of livestock illegally shipped to California as well as Brucellosis vaccination tags on shipped cattle not meeting ADT requirements.
- The State Veterinarian and NDA law enforcement officers continue in the investigation of multiple livestock neglect and abuse cases.
- Both NDA law enforcement and civilian staff responded to Elko County in March for a joint investigation with state and local law enforcement of an illegal backyard poultry facility. These facilities are often associated with Virulent Newcastle Disease such as is the case in California. Testing on this facility was done by staff and no disease was detected. Dr. Goicoechea has been subpoenaed to testify in this case during the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- NDA law enforcement successfully investigated and filed charges against an individual in Pershing County for livestock theft. The investigation resulted in the prosecution of the individual.
- NDA law enforcement officers are currently investigating 2 reports of missing/stolen livestock in eastern Nevada. Coordination with adjoining state agencies is occurring with these investigations.

### **State Veterinarian**

- Dr. Goicoechea is continuing to serve on a working group that is looking into a USDA proposal to eliminate free NUES tags. Dr. Goicoechea will be giving an update the Week of June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Western States Livestock Health Association annual meeting.
- Recent purchases using USDA/APHIS cooperative agreement funds included approximately 6,000 EID tags for distribution to Nevada producers (brucellosis vaccination and bright tag replacement tags) and 2 panel readers to demonstrate and implement the use of new EID tagging technologies.

## June 5, 2019 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division



- An outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus-1 started on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Over a six-week period, Dr. Goicoechea worked with the equine industry in Nevada and State Veterinarians in three western states to slow and eventually stop the spread of this disease in Nevada. A total of 9 premises were placed under quarantine throughout the six-week period. No horses were lost, but one abortion did occur, and two horses exhibited neurologic signs and are recovering or recovered at this time.
- May saw an increase in positive Trichomoniasis herds in Nevada. Multiple herds remain under hold at this time due to bulls being turned out before neighboring herds tested positive, resulting in contact herds being placed under hold after bulls were turned out.
- The division has again requested an Outreach Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Coordinator through the 2019 ADT grant request. This position is currently requested as a part time contract employee and will work to file veterinary certificate of inspections (CVI), vaccination records and testing records.

### Animal Industry Programs

- PARC: Employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state in the last quarter.
  - The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the last quarter includes coyotes 31%, lions 1%, ravens 44%, and starlings 24%.
  - Employees provided public outreach to 149 individuals or businesses.
  - 28 samples were taken from predatory animals during the quarter.
  - Agricultural product losses reported to staff consisted of: 219 cattle; 276 sheep; 15 goats; 32 fowl; 62 wildlife and natural resources; 12 property.
  - Agricultural product losses verified by employees consisted of: Sheep 40% and Cattle 60%.
- Brand Inspection: The division held an in-person meeting and training which was offered to all brand inspectors. The meeting was video conferenced between all NDA offices to allow for easier attendance.
  - The division continues to send out periodic emails to brand inspectors offering training tips for completing brand inspections accurately and in conformance with statutes and regulations. Plans for additional in person group trainings will be scheduled in the future.
- Livestock Assessment Tax (Head Tax): The electronic head tax program has been opened for the 2019 reporting year. In addition, staff have sent out notices to approximately 600 livestock owners who were delinquent.
- Livestock Auction Licensing: The electronic program for the agriculture dealers, brokers, and public livestock auction licensing should be live and available to customers in the beginning of June.

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- Commercial Feed: The program currently has over 200 registered individuals or companies.
- VRE Horses: In April NDA entered into a non-exclusive cooperative agreement with American Wild Horse Campaign for the administering of fertility control to Virginia Range feral/estrays horses. The department has received additional cooperative agreement requests from other advocate groups for the management of VRE's, which are currently under review.
- Agriculture Enforcement Officers: Last quarter statistics tracking sheet has been provided for reference.
- Animal Disease Lab:
  - Elko Laboratory and staff continue moving forward with test development related to Trichomoniasis Molecular testing. The Elko laboratory received the approved equipment for implementing this testing during the end of May. Some additional staff training is scheduled and plans for providing testing should begin in June 2019.
  - Microbiologist III attended a 3-day course, *Laboratory Methods for Detecting Rabies Virus*, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and hosted by the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
  - ADL staff performed a process improvement project related to Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) or health certificate. The department is responsible for inspecting these official documents. A new procedure was developed and has implemented the prompt notification of violations issued to veterinarians. The violations are tracked to verify that violations decrease over the next fiscal year.
  - Compared to FY 2018, ADL has seen an increase in testing volumes including a 7% increase in T. fetus testing, 16% increase in Equine Infectious anemia (EIA or Coggins) testing.
  - The total current laboratory tests performed by the ADL for FY19 is 30,403.