

### **Noxious Weeds**

- Noxious weeds staff have been collaborating with CWMAs and weed district leads while providing presentations at county commissioner meetings.
- Noxious weed presentations have been provided to seven counties: Nye, Esmeralda, Mineral, Churchill, White Pine, Lincoln, and Pershing.
- Noxious Weeds staff continued to collaborate with NDOT biologists to ensure contractors working on highway infrastructure projects are completing their weed mitigation plans required by state law.
- Published article regarding Medusahead by NDA Rangeland Health Coordinator and NDA Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team member.

### **Seed**

- NDA have begun development of the Nevada Native Seed Strategy in collaboration with USFWS, USFS, BLM, DCNR, NDOW, NDF, The Nature Conservancy, Walker Basin Conservancy, and UNR. This partnership brings together the state and federal partners along with NGO groups to help build capacity for native seed in Nevada for restoration and rehabilitation efforts. This partnership was born out of the need for more availability for seed, and from NDA perspective to help foster diversity of plant/seed harvesting in Nevada. The group is working to fit the unique needs of Nevada.
- Increase in stem and bulb nematode inspections.
- Increase in source ID and certification for wildland collected seed.
- NDA's seed program is expected to grow the native seed source ID certification inspections due to their outreach and collaboration with public and private steak holders.
- NDA hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Native Seed Forum with over 60 participants.
- NDA staff including seed program manager, noxious weed program manager, and GIS specialist provided a training in weed identification, mapping, control and revegetation to the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe Natural Resources Program staff.

### **Rangeland**

- The NDA Rangeland health Coordinator has developed an Ag in the Classroom training in Elko County which has reached approximately 500 kids and teachers.
- Rangeland Health Coordinator oversaw the final revisions to the Rangeland Monitoring Application and is currently working with federal and independent landowners on how to effectively use the system. Over the next few quarters it is expected a group training program will be developed and provided reaching a larger constituent base.

## June 5, 2019 Board Update

### Plant Industry Division



#### Entomology

- Mormon crickets hatching occurring in northern Nevada. Winnemucca area of concern and 6,000 acres will be aerially treated in cooperation with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS). Ground treatments will also be applied.
- Collaborator on Mediterranean pine engraver project with Dr Steven Seybold, USFS. This is a new bark beetle to southern Nevada and the State Entomologist will be assisting in control trials.
- Significant increase in inspection requests.
- Education or outreach activities performed:
  - Southern Nevada Pruning Seminar – Beetlemania Identification of pest beetle in trees in southern Nevada
  - Assist Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation in Martin Luther King Day bioblitz
  - Green Industry Entomology Training
  - CEU Lecture for NDOT government license training on Entomology
  - Cultivator (Cannabis) workshop- greenhouse pests
  - Nevada Naturalist program Entomology training – southern Nevada
  - Carson City Farm Days
  - National Agricultural Day – Rancho San Rafael

#### Plant Pathology

- A *Pythium* root rot disease was found in an aeroponic Marijuana cultivation facility. The pathogen was identified as *Pythium myriotylum*, one of most troublesome pathogen for cannabis plants.
- The plant pathologist gave a presentation to industrial hemp and cannabis industry on a list of plant diseases we have found from *Cannabis* crop.
- The program has completed multiple FFY17 exotic disease survey projects. A total of 4,929 survey records were generated and deposited into the USDA-APHIS-PPQ administrated databases.
- A total funding of \$85,060 from USDA Plant Protection Act Section 7721 was awarded to the plant pathology program to perform FFY19 exotic plant disease and nematode surveys. Work plans and financial plans for funded projects were completed and approved by both NDA and USDA.

#### Specialty Crop Block Grant

- 15 applications received, 8 recommended for funding with emphasis on squash and melon research, new grower education, cooperative marketing projects, agriculture events, and beekeeping/honey education.

## June 5, 2019 Board Update

### Plant Industry Division



#### Produce Safety

- Two on-farm readiness (mock inspections) reviews were performed to assist growers with assessing preparedness for inspections. NDA and Desert Farming Initiative are providing operation specific technical assistance as requested.
- Farm food safety training videos geared at employees and trainers are near completion and will be launched during the next quarter.
- A web-based calendar record keeping system is near completion that can be utilized for various farm programs to establish routine processes and record keeping practices.
- Approximately 15 farm visits were provided to assist new and existing growers with identifying best practices for reducing food safety risks.
- The National Consortium meeting was attended where NDA provided updates to other states and federal partners on state activities, goals, and priorities.

#### Hemp

- 2019 Approved grower acreage: 7,849 acres; 1,180,801 square feet (Approximately 1,800 acres were approved in 2018)
- Seed production: 73 acres; 766,032 square feet
- 150 growers (I'm including 15 that are near approval in this number); 16 pending
- 39 handlers; 9 pending
- 31 seed producers; 4 pending
- Two hemp trainings were provided to industry on regulations, processes, and challenges.
- New sampling approach has been established including equal parts bud to equal parts stem and leaves. SOPs are being finalized in conjunction with chemistry.
- Letter was issued to law enforcement detailing NDA's hemp program processes and new regulations. Two trainings are scheduled with law enforcement during the next quarter.
- Experiencing challenges communicating with Department of Taxation as many of their listed "outdoor" facilities are greenhouses that could contribute to or be impacted by pollination. More information sharing is needed as both agencies approve applications in an effort to protect crop integrity within the cannabis industry.

#### Export

- Export requests involving phytosanitary certificates has increased from 342 phytosanitary certificates (FY 2018) to 482 certificates (issued to date in FY 2019).
- Plant Industry Administrator attended the Western Plant Board meeting where several pests of national and regional significance were discussed along with established and needed protocols. There was much discussion about increased monitoring of shipping containers needed as they are a significant contributor to pest transport.

### **Chemistry**

- Cooperated with the Las Vegas Police Department on Strychnine dog poisoning. Sample was positive for Strychnine. S. Sutter of our Las Vegas NDA office followed through with the police in tracking the source of the sample.
- Cooperated with Taxation: Multiple samples of Marijuana came through the laboratory, many positive for pesticides. Laboratory analysis results have confirmed that NO pesticide detected in all samples.
- Collaborating with Hemp program to establish SOPs from sample receipt through processing and reporting. Strategies are being assessed to prepare for high volume of hemp samples for THC analysis.
- Cooperating with NDEP in Ground and Surface Water monitoring by analyzing their surface water collected. Also leveraging USGS passive sampler program analysis for pesticides in water.

### **Pesticide**

- Environmental Services staff attended an EPA sponsored training on their updates to the Certification of Pesticide Applicator Rule (40 CFR 171). The training focused on EPA guidance regarding updates to state certification plans (Nevada's plan was developed in 1975; we will submit the new one by March 2020). The other focal point was assisting states with updating their regulations to meet this new standard.
- A new project for 2019 (a proposal was drafted and collaboration has begun with NDEP): NDA could act as a collaborator by expanding existing sampling techniques and protocol. NDA could incorporate testing for phosphorous, nitrogen, total dissolved solids, and total suspended solids as a part of its ongoing statewide groundwater and surface water research. Furthermore, potentially expanding the existing partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and NDA, long-term temperature and monitors could be deployed to help understand the source of impairment of Nevada's major rivers.