

## December 4, 2019 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division

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#### Division Overview

- The Animal Industry Division continues to move forward with the recruiting process for the Agricultural Enforcement Officer vacant positions. The division currently has vacancies in the Elko, Ely, and Sparks locations. Due to the staff shortage, some calls for service and requests are being passed to the county agencies having jurisdiction over the area of the calls due to being geographically unable to respond in a timely fashion. Additionally, enforcement staff are tasked with overseeing and assisting the state brand inspectors. This includes responding to assistance/questions and assisting with the training and equipment.
  
- Partnership activities
  - USDA Wildlife Services
    - NDA staff continue to work with USDA Wildlife Services staff in the drafting and implementation of an MOU between the two agencies. Although there was an agreement and financial plan in place previously covering portions of this partnership, an MOU that specifically details each partners role, expectations, and reporting requirements had never been in place. NDA and USDA Wildlife Services are currently operating under a signed extension of the previous financial plan during this MOU process.
  - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
    - NDA has received monthly reporting of calls addressed by WHC since the inception in August 2019, of the non-exclusive cooperative agreement between WHC and NDA for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray horses. Monthly calls totaled: August: 18; September: 37; October: 81
  - American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
    - NDA has received its seventh monthly report from AWHC covering the Virginia Range feral/stray horse fertility program. AWHC reported they administered the PZP vaccine to 282 individual mares from July 2019. AWHC reports with the latest monthly update they have administered the PZP vaccine to a total of 744 mares since they started darting on April 9, 2019.

#### Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
  - This program currently has 99 registered accounts for the 2019 year, with 15 of which have registered since July 1, 2019.
- Livestock Enforcement
  - NDA's current two law enforcement officers have spent their time towards the following duties: 65 investigations; 44 traffic stops; 4 warning citations; 399 phone calls; 170 administrative hours; 2 check sites; 8 strays returned; 78

## December 4, 2019 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division



inspections; 68 training hours; 11 public service calls; 3 vehicle crashes; 9 agency assists; 1 hold order; 3 quarantines.

- Livestock Identification
  - Staff have completed 5,564 brand inspection certificates for 167,858 total animals inspected since July 1, 2019.
  - 4,646 brand renewal letters have been mailed out and the online electronic renewal program for the December 31, 2019 renewal deadline went live in mid-September.
  - The division has been successful in hiring 15 new brand inspector positions across the state. Twelve of these additional inspectors will be located in northeastern Nevada, while the other three inspectors will be located in the western area of the state. Division staff issued inspector equipment and held a one-day training course for the 12 new inspectors on November 12<sup>th</sup> in Elko.
  - Staff have issued 99 new brand registrations; 51 brand transfers; and 717 brand registration renewals since July 1, 2019.
  - Staff have received approximately 1,500 additional paper renewal applications that are being processed and entered into the system individually.
  - The division has received 2,453 Livestock Assessment filings for the 2019 year and 550 late assessments for the 2018 year.
  - The division currently has 113 agriculture licenses issued for the 2019 year.
  - The Sparks office and staff have received in excess of 150 phone calls or emails relating to the Virginia Range feral/stray horses since July 1, 2019.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC)
  - 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 59%, ravens 25%, badgers 7%, feral swine 4%, and the remaining 5% included lions, red fox, striped skunks, and feral dogs.
  - Employees provided public outreach to 304 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2019. 21 samples were taken from predatory animals during the quarter.
  - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of: 65 acres of corn; 17 calves; 143 chickens; 20 ducks; 3 goats; 118 sheep (adults and lambs). Additionally, 2 companion/hobby animals were injured during the reporting period.
- Veterinary Medical Services
  - The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 5,015 procedures totaling 13,874 tests or services since the start of FY 2020. Most of the testing volumes included Equine Infectious Anemia testing (4,693), supporting partnering agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, zoonotic disease testing included West Nile Virus PCR (918), Saint Louis Encephalitis (918), Western Equine Encephalitis (918), and Rabies IFA (215).
  - The ADL has reported a total of 17 rabies positive bat cases for the state of Nevada, with 9 of the 12 occurring during this fiscal year. For the entire arboviral

## December 4, 2019 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division



- season of 2019, the laboratory performed testing on 1,030 mosquito pools totaling 25,848 mosquitos and 9 birds. The laboratory reported 24 West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools and one West Nile Virus positive avian case.
- Since July 1, 2019, the ADL saw an expected seasonal decline for Trichomonosis testing. The ADL has performed 1,462 PCR tests, which included 908 from Nevada with no reported positives. Also documented were 598 cases reported by referral labs with no reported positives. The combined total for Nevada animals tested was 1,506.
  - The ADL continues to see a large amount of testing being submitted to the laboratory from clients located in California, Oregon, and Idaho. The ADL performed 1,296 tests from California, Oregon, and Idaho clients, with 14 reported positives and suspect cases from California.
  - On October 21, 2019, staff received a report of numerous horses located at a southern Nevada facility that were showing symptoms consistent with EHV-1. The director issued a quarantine order on the facility on October 22, 2019, due to the initial reports, and later received laboratory confirmation of horses that tested positive for EHV-1. The quarantine order was extended twice due to additional reported positive horses before being cancelled on November 12, 2019.

#### Industry Impact

- Livestock and farm products: Dealers, brokers, commission merchants, cash buyers, and agents licensing. NRS 576
  - This program falls under the livestock inspection budget, 4546, and monitors/regulates anyone involved in the buying, selling, or brokering of agricultural products. Exceptions to the program include anyone who is selling their own grown or raised product, or anyone operating out of a retail establishment. The program is in place to protect sellers of agricultural products by requiring registration, licensing, and minimum bonding requirements of individuals who are purchasing agricultural products from the seller.
  - Per NRS 576, any individual or business that is engaged in the buying, selling, or brokering of agricultural products is required to submit a completed application, proof of bonding, and associated fees to NDA. Historically, the licensing process has been carried out through NDA staff annually by mail. In the spring of 2019, NDA completed the design and launching of a new fully electronic registration website for this licensing program. Applicants are now able to complete all the required information online and upload any required documents, such as a copy of the current bond for operating. Once the application has been approved by NDA, the applicant is able to access their account and print off the approved license. This new online process not only expedites the license issuing process for applicants, but also reduces staff hours applied to this program and costs associated with printing and mailing of applications and licenses.

## December 4, 2019 Board Update

### Animal Industry Division

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- As this program progresses, the department will gain more compliance from parties buying agricultural products across the state who may have never been licensed or have allowed their licenses to lap without any follow up from the department. There has already been an increase in calls this year from licensed parties who are reporting other individuals who are currently operating without a license. It is the goal of this division to ensure that all parties buying agricultural products across the state are licensed and bonded to protect those purchasing the products.
- NDA Animal Disease Laboratory
  - Slide show presentation by Animal Disease Laboratory Supervisor, Laura Morrow.