

Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) changes
 - NAC 555
 - Update regulations to reflect new federal competency standards and in response to statute changes in 2021 Assembly Bill (AB) 34. In addition, these changes will clarify pesticide applicator licensing/certification categories.
 - Include a per sample fee for identifying insect and plant pathogen identification. These fees would cover the lab and staff time to provide identifications.
 - NAC 587
 - Establish fees that cover crop inspection and certification administration costs. Crop, export, and seed program demands have increased significantly, but staff and resources are limited due to insufficient revenues, and this impacts program services. After a thorough review, appropriate fees were determined to adequately cover program costs. The proposed fees will be less than those charged for equivalent services in other states or by the USDA. A workshop will be scheduled in June or July.
 - Include seed retailer and wholesaler registration to ensure seed being sold within the state is viable, free of noxious weeds, and is the marketed species. A workshop will be scheduled in July or August.
 - NAC 557
 - Full adoption of temporary regulation LCB file 001-21 to ensure regulations meet federal hemp program requirements and that the NDA has primary regulatory authority.
 - In 2004, at the request of Nevada, Idaho, and Utah, the United States Congress allocated \$6.7 million to USDA APHIS for the survey and treatment of Mormon Crickets, which was then provided to state departments of agriculture. The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) estimates that the funds remaining for Nevada will be exhausted by 2022 and will not be renewed by USDA APHIS. The NDA is notifying counties and other agencies about this issue to identify potential solutions moving forward.
- Partnership activities
 - Desert Farming Initiative (DFI)
 - The NDA offered two virtual food safety and production education opportunities for producers in conjunction with DFI: the Food Safety

- Quick, a basic food safety class aimed at new producers, and a course titled Composting: Your Soil Health and Produce Safety.
- Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - NDOT, NDA and BLM weed coordination held a meeting to assess the feasibility of connecting NDOT District 3 maintenance staff with BLM weed districts in Battle Mountain, Elko, Ely and Winnemucca. The goal of this meeting was to coordinate treatments and find opportunities to establish larger noxious weeds treatment projects as opposed to stopping at the federal land fence-line. This is part of a broader goal in a state-wide collaboration project effort for addressing noxious weeds issues.
 - NDOT, BLM and Forest Service
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) noxious weeds data points were assessed and updated. A statewide effort with state and federal partners to clean up all public land EDRR data points was performed and included revisits to reported sites and verification of weed species infestations. This was performed to ensure current data is accurate and to help with 2022 strategic planning for EDRR species treatment and surveys.

Program Updates

- Plant Pathology
 - A second winter grow-out virus test for 2020 seed potatoes was completed. A total of 2,860 tubers were planted and tested for a set of mosaic and leaf curl viruses. All seed lots had low infection rates and met certification standards.
 - The Plant Pathology Lab used funds secured from USDA-NIFA to acquire advanced equipment for the rapid testing of viruses, bacteria, and fungi. A complete setup of this testing system will enhance lab testing capacity and rapid turnaround of sample results. It will also allow lab staff to resume USDA National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program (NPPLAP) proficiency tests for regulatory agents, allowing the NDA Plant Pathology diagnostic services to be provided throughout the United States and territories.
 - The Plant Pathology Program continues to monitor its service quality, which is a part of the laboratory quality management system under the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) STAR-D accreditation program. Recent survey results showed that customers rated our services as very professional (100% responses), very convenient (97.62%), very responsive (90.24%), very helpful (90.48%), and very satisfied (92.86%).
- Seed
 - The 5th Annual Nevada Native Seed Forum was held March 16th-17th, 2021. This year's virtual format allowed for over 160 people to participate in the seminars, which featured grower presentations highlighting their experiences with native seed production, and how to sell/market seed within the industry. This

- Forum continues to provide information to both public and private sector participants and educates attendees on the many intricacies of the native seed market.
- The seed program expects to see an increase in Allium quarantine efforts moving into the 2021 inspection season. With an increase in onion acreage in 2020 from 4,920.87 to 5,202.62 in 2021, our program will continue to hire seasonal staff to assist in inspecting the production of both garlic and onion for quarantinable diseases within the state.
 - NDOT position accomplishments:
 - Nine (9) NDOT weed mitigation plans were approved (2 of these were conditional approvals) furthering efforts of reducing the spread of noxious weeds through projects and roadways
 - Pesticide Compliance Program
 - On January 4, 2017, the U.S. EPA published final revisions to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule (40 CFR Part 171) in the Federal Register. These revisions provide assurance that restricted-use pesticide (RUP) certified applicators and licensed applicators are competent to use pesticides in a manner that will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. As a result, the NDA is required to update its state certification plan pertaining to its licensing and certification requirements. Part of this process involves revisions to Chapter 555 and 586 of the NRS. 2021 Nevada AB34 (revised provisions governing the control of pests, noxious weeds, and pesticides) and AB74 (revised provisions related to Nevada Pesticide Act) have been heard and amended as the result of work session comments and been signed by the governor. These statutes are needed for the state to operate under a cooperative agreement with EPA. The following steps will be taken in order to comply with the EPA.
 - Work with EPA Region 9 to finalize the NDA's state pesticide certification plan (currently under review by EPA) that is needed for the state to have oversight of pesticide applicator licensing/certification.
 - Begin the process for revisions to Chapter 555 and 586 of the NAC, particularly involving licensing criteria and categories.
 - Thoroughly review and update all certification and licensing examinations to meet EPA's new competency standards.
 - Conduct trainings for licensed and certified applicators so they are aware of the regulation revisions and new testing standards.
 - A significant increase in participation in the pesticide waste disposal program was experienced in FY21 as demonstrated in the table below. Staff suggested that this may have been attributed to property purchases and purges of abandoned product, product being held from FY20 due to Covid-19, or the surge in gardening/yard services that occurred over the past year.

Pesticide Disposal Historical Program Participation	
FY19	11,850
FY20	16,800
FY21	24,900

- Crops
 - Export
 - The department has received several requests for Potato Shipping Point inspections in Northern and Southern Nevada. At this time there are no NDA staff certified by USDA to conduct these inspections. Two staff were able to shadow a USDA inspector on how to inspect Potato Seed at Shipping Point, and we are working to set up a cooperative agreement with Idaho to obtain the training and certification to provide these inspections in the future to support Nevada exports.
 - The NDA has issued a survey to assess the interest of terminal markets in receiving inspections. These inspections would help prevent product that meets USDA standards from being denied and then sold at a reduced rate, or in some instances disposed of. In addition, it would also provide verification to the buyer as to whether they are receiving the grade and quality of product they ordered. Based on the survey outcomes, staff will be deployed for commodity specific training to offer the voluntary service.
 - The NDA continues to provide shipping point inspections, which includes USDA onion grading services to ensure the quality and size meets USDA product standards. Many of these requests continue to be for products destined for Canada. They are performed at the request of the shipper or buyer.
 - Shipping point certificates decreased from 735 to 642 by 15%. Total weight of onions certified went from 9,885,468 to 8,823,179 lbs. of onions.
 - Federal phytosanitary certificates, issued to ensure plant pests are not in shipments, have increased from FY20 by 15%. From July 1st, 2020 thru April 30, 2021 681 certificates were processed versus 592 during the same period in FY20.
 - Hemp
 - The following data reflects 2021 hemp grower applications, 2021 grower certificates issued, the total applied growing area and the total certified growing area as of May 11, 2021. Program participation has reduced significantly in 2021. The NDA believes this is attributed to the drastic decline in pricing for hemp biomass, in addition to federal program compliance requirements.

June 7, 2021 Board Report
 Plant Industry Division



State of Nevada Statistics	Acres	Sq. Ft.
2021 Applied Growing Area =	2,932.89	538,450
2021 Certified Growing Area =	2,738.93	427,880
2021 Planted Area =	N/A	N/A
2021 Applied Growers =	61	
2021 Certified Grower =	40	

2021 data as of 5/11/2021

Planted area is approximate based upon grower-submitted harvest reports and inspector observations during field inspections.

- Nursery
 - There are currently 988 licensed nurseries as of Q3 (about equivalent to FY20). The NDA currently has nursery stock on hold in a Nevada landscaper’s holding yard waiting for further notice from CDFA/USDA after possible detection of *Dactylonectria pauciseptata* (a new fungus to the US) by CDFA. The nursery stock in question is of California origin.
- Producer Certificate/ Food Safety
 - The NDA has started a new outreach activity and is hosting Monthly Lunch and Learn Sessions in which one food safety or agriculture-related topic is covered during the lunch hour on the last Thursday of each month. The Crops Team will be coordinating with other program staff to provide department service information such as pesticide safety, noxious weeds identification, and drought updates to increase awareness and utilization of department services.
- Entomology
 - Exotic pest surveys were delayed throughout the state due to Covid-19 restrictions but are now underway.
 - Mormon cricket and grasshopper treatments were initially delayed due to the required environmental impact assessment. This assessment has been completed and surveys have been conducted throughout northern Nevada to identify treatment areas. High populations of Mormon crickets have been found from the California border into Elko County. Ground treatments began the week of May 17 in Humboldt County. Aerial treatments will be conducted the week of May 24.
 - 3 Egyptian locusts have been turned in from a residence in Las Vegas. Once confirmed by USDA National Identification Services, this could be the first population of this insect in North America. As the name implies it is a primarily a Mediterranean insect and is considered a quarantinable insect by USDA. However, in its native region it is considered a minor pest. Initial surveys were delayed due to weather, but further surveys will be conducted with USDA-APHIS-PPQ to assess the extent and potential industry significance of the newly identified pest.