
Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - Dalton Smith, NDA's Elko Agricultural Enforcement Officer (AEO), has completed the final phase of the field training program with NDA's certified Field Training Officers. With this accomplishment, Officer Smith will be progressed from an AEO I to II and has been released to work in a solo capacity. This will help alleviate the extra burden that the other officers were carrying due to the continued AEO vacancy in Ely. A huge thank you to Officer's Justin Ely and Ian Knight for development and implementation of an entirely new AEO Field Training Program and providing the required training to Officer Smith while also performing their regular job duties.
 - Recruitment will begin for the Ely AEO II position now that the budget has been restored from the reductions related to COVID-19.
 - Reclassification and recruitment will begin for the vacant Elko biologist position now that the budget has been restored from the reductions related to COVID-19. The biologist position will be reclassified to a microbiologist position, which will be more suitable for laboratory testing and reopening of the laboratory.
 - Program staff have held two workshops for proposed language changes to NAC 564 and NAC 565. A workshop will be scheduled after review and approval of current revisions by the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB).
 - Revisions to the original proposed language in NAC 571 have been drafted and the public survey and small business impact statement for these revisions are currently in process. A public workshop will be scheduled following the completion of the above processes.
 - Proposed revisions to NAC 583, Meat, Fish, Produce, Poultry and Eggs: the public survey, small business impact statement and public workshop were completed. During the public workshop, the Department received substantial negative input and dislike for the entirety of proposed language. Due to the amount of negative comment towards the proposed language, a complete revision process of the proposed language for NAC 583 will be performed when staff time allows.
 - NACs still pending review of proposed revisions and the public workshop and hearing process include NAC 441A, Infectious Disease; Toxic Agents; NAC 573, Public Sales of Livestock; NAC 577, Animal Remedies, Veterinary Biologics and Pharmaceuticals; NAC 584, Dairy Products and Substitutes.
- Partnership activities
 - USDA Wildlife Services
 - NDA and USDA Wildlife Services continue working jointly in performing wildlife damage management operations.
 - USDA/APHIS

- NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA/APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada’s Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
- 2020 final quarter updates were completed and submitted to USDA/APHIS.
- NDA staff prepared and submitted the 2021 USDA/APHIS Cooperative Agreement ADT and Umbrella applications. The NDA was successful in securing funding for both cooperative agreements. ADT - \$46,013 and Umbrella - \$40,136.
- Additional funding was recently awarded for ADT EID readers and taggers.
- Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2020 for the management of Virginia Range feral/estrays (VRE) horses. Monthly calls to date total: July 53, August 121, September 108, October 97, November 74, December 85, January 59, February 28, March 19. These numbers represent 644 calls addressed during FY21. In January, 14 horses were relocated from Carson City to South Meadows and 10 horses were relocated from Hidden Valley to Fernley.
- American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
 - NDA and AWHC third-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement is valid through April 30, 2022. The NDA continues to receive monthly reporting from AWHC covering the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reporting shows that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 991 individual mares with 1,026 doses (216 doses given as a primer and 810 doses as a booster) for FY21. The AWHC database has been updated to include 4,750 individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range area.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 305 registered and active accounts for FY21.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - NDA’s four law enforcement officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY21: 71 new livestock investigations, 79 follow up investigations; 7 animal health investigations; 3 animals quarantined; 1 vehicle crash; 1 vehicle vs livestock crash; 291 traffic stops; 72 warnings issued (34 livestock/brand and 38 animal health); 8 citations issued (6 livestock/brand and 2 animal health); 1,856 phone calls; 1,487 administrative hours; 4 vehicle livestock check sites; 24 strays; 17 estrays; 274 brand inspections; 49 transit inspections; 626 training hours; 14 VRE responses; 18 livestock in roadway responses; 11 livestock highway kills (1 horse and 10 cattle); 58 agency assists; 18 livestock in roadway responses; 142 hours equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 13,717 brand inspections for 447,026 total animals, including the public livestock auctions.

- Brand inspector staff have worked 12,241 hours and traveled 261,066 miles performing brand inspections.
- Division staff renewed 377 brands; approved 208 new brand applications (73 pending) and transferred 91 brands.
- Staff have received 2,983 livestock assessment filings since 7/1/2020. 233 late assessments for 2019, 34 late assessments for 2018 and 24 late assessments for 2017.
- Mailed 241 Livestock Movement Permit applications for 2021. 155 have been returned for processing and a total of 2,602 permits have been issued.
- 2021 Livestock Assessment Tax letters sent to State Printing. Notices will be printed, mailed, and delivered to livestock owners by 6/15/2021.
- The division has issued 195 agriculture licenses for FY21.
- The Sparks office and staff have received more than 320 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2020.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control
 - The 2021 annual PARC Committee meeting was held on February 18, 2021. An application for the vacant Master Guide seat has been received and provided to the Chairman for future approval.
 - PARC employees have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout FY21. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 46% and ravens 52%, with the remaining 2% including feral swine, lions, striped skunks, badgers, bobcats and European starlings.
 - Employees provided public outreach to 1,716 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2020. 10 samples were taken from predatory animals during this time.
 - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 65 calves; 67 chickens; 12 ducks; 12 turkeys; 3 goats; 312 sheep (adults and lambs) and 10 acres of alfalfa. Additionally, 7 companion/hobby animals were killed during this period.
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - Pooled PCR testing for Trichomoniasis was launched on December 2, 2020, including accepting pooled PCR results as an official test for importation/interstate commerce.
 - The Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 7,885 procedures totaling 28,867 tests or services since the start of FY21.
 - All ADL staff participated in Brucellosis proficiency testing and were USDA certified to perform two methods, Buffered Acidified Plate Antigen (BAPA) and the Brucellosis Card Test (BCT).
 - ADL staff hosted the Nevada Vector Control Association meeting virtually on March 17, 2021. This annual meeting is attended by 11 partnering agencies. The meeting included presentations utilizing drone technology to deliver insecticide as well as insecticide resistance and other training resources.
 - The ADL Supervisor is working with Churchill County to arrange for sentinel chicken testing for West Nile Virus. Due to a lack of funding, this testing will be sent to UC Davis.
 - USDA cooperative agreement funding received will provide for a project upgrade to the ADL's Vetstar Animal Disease Diagnostic System (VADDS) that will be a

significant positive impact to the laboratories tracking and sample management procedures.

- In November, the ADL successfully performed and passed an inspection by the USDA related to Equine Infectious Anemia testing.
- ADL's Supervisor virtually attended the Pacific Southwest Vector-Borne Diseases/Center of Excellence annual conference on February 17-18. She presented an update on arboviral testing in Nevada.
- Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continues.0 These investigations include some multi-state investigations.
- Maintained quarterly swine scrap feeding inspections requirements, including license renewal.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Stereotype 2 (RHDV2) investigations and monitoring continue, with detection now confirmed in 7 counties. Cooperation with USDA/APHIS is ongoing, including importation of vaccination. To date, 1,300 doses of vaccine have been imported. Public information, including a list of affected counties, is maintained on the NDA website.
- State Veterinarian continues work with One Health partners and consult with Nevada veterinarians regarding SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in accordance with CDC recommendations.
- RFID 840 and OCV tags continue to be issued by the NDA, in coordination with USDA/APHIS to support Nevada's ADT plan.
- State Veterinarian continues to work in conjunction with local law enforcement and animal control authorities, industry partners, and USDA/APHIS on animal investigations, including disease investigations involving livestock and public health.
- Investigations into illegal animal imports continue, in cooperation with other State Animal Health Officials, to include multi-state investigations.
- The NDA animal importation requirements webpage was updated to reflect changes in relation to animal disease and to improve compliance.
- The Veterinary Diagnostician and State Veterinarian implemented an additional sampling technique for obtaining Scrapie samples, to maintain Nevada's Scrapie-free status. 3 herds/flocks have been successfully sampled thus far.
- Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) and Avian Influenza (AI) testing was completed in several "higher-risk" poultry flocks to monitor the potential for emerging disease(s).
- NDA participated in, and successfully completed, the National Priority Trace Exercises in accordance with the ADT Cooperative Agreement.
- The ADL will have limited funding to cover West Nile Virus testing through July 2021, due to impacts related to COVID-19 grant funding redirections in the CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grants section.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - In September, two additional personnel from the Animal Disease Laboratory passed the Grade "A" Dairy 2020 FDA Raw Milk Proficiency Program, which will support the department with backup and additional resources. This proficiency program is divided into two sections and staff participated in the second part in February.

- The ADL Supervisor attended the course, National Milk Drug Data Reporting, provided by the U.S Food and Drug Administration’s National Drug Milk Monitoring Program.
- NDA was awarded \$22,449.64 for the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Milk and Shellfish Grant funding for 2021 to cover training costs for the Dairy inspectors and laboratory staff.
- NDA distributed and graded the 2020 Appendix N Proficiency Test for all Grade “A” Dairy sites. All sites were successful.
- All inspection frequency requirements were met for the Dairy, Meat and Poultry programs. Milk and water samples were collected and exceeded minimum frequency requirements.
- Inspection staff conducted 42 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 5 reinspection’s, and 96 dairy farm inspections and 43 reinspection’s for FY21.
- Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 71 total equipment tests have been conducted for FY21.
- 51 warning and compliance notifications were issued for FY21.
- 8 complaints have been received and investigated in FY21.
- Meat and Poultry program inspectors conducted 24 facility inspections. 1 new facility was permitted in FY21.
- Inspection staff have collected 870 milk samples and 153 water samples.
- Inspection staff have collected 500 brucellosis samples.
- Inspection staff evaluated 30 milk plant samplers and 36 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers in FY21.
- Inspection staff conducted 5 farm ratings, 2 plant ratings, and 11 single service ratings as well as 3 lab evaluations in FY21.
- Dairy Lab participated in FDA Proficiency Testing.
- Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 1,064 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
- Audit staff have completed 49 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY21.
- There were 43 new applicants registered with Dairy Distribution Program due directly to the field investigation work completed for a total of \$21,943.58 in new revenues from dairy product remittance reporting.
- Dairy Distribution Program currently has 230 licensee accounts.

Industry Impact

- Nevada Scrapies Program Update
 - Dr. Keith Forbes, DVM, NDA Veterinary Diagnostician