

December 8, 2021 Board Update

Division of Animal Industry



Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - Recruitment for the vacant Ely Agricultural Police Officer II position is in process.
 - Reclassification of the vacant Elko Biologist 3 position to a Microbiologist 3 has been approved by Agency HR and will be presented for final approval at the December 2021 Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meeting. If approved, the division will proceed with recruitment. The Elko laboratory remains closed during this time.
 - Program staff were successful in obtaining approval through IFC for the reimplementation of the Dairy Program Operations Manager position, which was eliminated during the Legislative 2021 session budget closing.
 - Program staff have conducted two workshops for proposed language changes to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) NAC 564 and 565. The adoption hearing was held on September 9, 2021. An additional adoption hearing for NAC 565 language pertaining to horse permits, and under the authority of the Board of Agriculture, will be held on December 8, 2021.
 - Revisions to the original proposed language in NAC 571 have been drafted and released. The public survey has been completed and the small business impact statement is in process. A public workshop will be scheduled and noticed in the coming months.
 - NACs pending review for 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-APHIS
 - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - 2021 second quarter updates were completed and submitted to USDA-APHIS.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2021 for the management of Virginia Range feral/stray (VRE) horses. FY22 calls to date total: 369
 - Due to horses straying from outside the boundaries of the Virginia Range area in Fernley, WHC is working with city, county, and state agencies to relocate the horses back within the boundaries, as well as future preventative fencing projects.
 - WHC is also currently working with city, county, and state agencies in the Reno area to address possible new fencing projects.

- WHC reports 27 horse versus vehicle crashes so far in 2021. There were 46 horse versus vehicle crashes reported in 2020. This data does not include the Fernley or USA Parkway areas.
- Relocations: 21 horses have been relocated from various urban areas and locations outside of the Virginia Range where the horses have strayed. These horses were relocated to less urban/populated areas of the Virginia Range.
- American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC)
 - The 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 344 individual mares with 350 doses (73 doses given as a primer and 277 doses as a booster) for FY22. The AWHC database has been updated to include 3,245 individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 395 registered and active accounts for FY22.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - NDA's 4 Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY22: 45 new livestock investigations, 53 follow up investigations; 4 animal health investigations; 759 animals quarantined that were diverted from CVI and entry permit destination to a cutting event; 282 traffic stops; 51 warnings issued (20 livestock/brand and 31 animal health); 5 citations issued (3 livestock/brand and 2 animal health); 999 phone calls; 482 administrative hours; 42 strays; 20 estrays; 281 brand inspections; 98 training hours; 6 VRE responses; 8 livestock in roadway responses; 5 livestock highway kill, 2 livestock railroad kill; 34 agency assists; 2 crashes vs livestock; 3 livestock in roadway responses; 44.5 hours equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 6,621 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 225,270 animals, including the public livestock auctions.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 6,476 hours and traveled 134,494 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 55 brands, approved 56 new brand applications (33 pending) and transferred 24 brands.
 - Staff have received 2,516 livestock assessment filings since July 1, 2021.
 - Staff have issued 2,850 livestock movement permits.
 - 4,828 2021 Livestock Assessment letters were sent out.
 - 89 agriculture licenses for FY22 have been issued.
 - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 115 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2021.
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC)

- PARC staff have provided technical assistance, non-lethal predator recommendations, and removal of predators where required across the state throughout FY22. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 62% and ravens 36%. The remaining 2% was equally represented by mountain lions, striped skunks, and badgers.
- Staff provided public outreach to 151 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2021. 6 samples for testing were taken from predatory animals during this time.
- Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 59 lambs; 7 adult sheep; 2 calves; and 10 chickens that were killed during the reporting period. Additionally, feral swine caused damage to 3 acres of alfalfa.
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - For FY22, the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 4,028 procedures accounting for 12,876 tests and/or services to date. This volume includes an increase of 4,245 tests for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) testing for BLM.
 - In addition, the laboratory provided annual Brucellosis surveillance testing for the dairy industry by performing 468 Brucellosis tests.
 - The ADL hosted the Truckee Meadows Veterinary Nursing Program Class of 2022 this year. On a weekly basis, a total of ten students visited the site. The ADL's Veterinary Diagnostician, Laboratory Supervisor and Microbiologists provided outreach and education to each student. The students were provided training on topics including disease traceability, state and federal regulations, laboratory testing procedures and zoonotic diseases.
 - The ADL completed a laboratory information systems server upgrade in November 2021. This project was federally funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
 - The ADL Supervisor continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) on a project related to data modernization. The goal of this project is to improve real-time surveillance of rabies in animals; to inform disease emergence and spread; and to improve Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) surveillance work and use cloud-based processing approaches and storage via the APHL Informatics Messaging Services (AIMS) environment to allow a secure, direct connection to CDC program areas. The cost to upgrade the current laboratory information management system and update electronic reporting is federally funded.
 - The Veterinary Diagnostician and State Veterinarian attended the 64th American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and 125th United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Conference. The conference addressed the latest issues in animal health, provided the latest research and information in disease eradication and control, and provided networking opportunities with federal and state animal health officials and other leaders in animal agriculture. Travel costs were federally funded by USDA.
 - Through the implementation of new biopsy techniques and extensive outreach, staff ensured that the NDA has successfully met Nevada's sampling requirements to maintain Scrapie Consistent State Status within the National Scrapie Eradication Program.

- Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continue, including additional multi-state investigations. Four ranches remain under quarantine for trichomoniasis as of November 22, 2021.
- Quarterly, routine swine scrap feeding inspections continue as required per state and federal regulations. A second Nevada facility received licensure for operation.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) investigations are ongoing, with a total of 8 counties with detections. A new, United States manufactured RHDV2 vaccine has been granted Emergency Use Authorization from USDA-APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) and has been conditionally authorized for shipment to and administration by, licensed Nevada veterinarians.
- State Veterinarian continues work with One Health partners and consultations with Nevada Veterinarians regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in accordance with CDC recommendations.
- For FY22, 6,955 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags have been issued to Nevada producers through the division to support Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability program. Tags remain available at no cost, for Nevada herds implementing RFID technology.
- State Veterinarian continues to work in conjunction with local law enforcement and animal control authorities on animal investigations, including disease investigations involving livestock and public health.
- Investigations into illegal animal imports continue, including multi-state investigations.
- State Veterinarian continues to work with industry partners and USDA-APHIS on disease investigations, including Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) investigations.
- State Veterinarian attended the Western States Livestock Health Association meeting in September 2021.
- State Veterinarian is maintaining communication with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and State Animal Health Officials regarding African Swine Fever (ASF) detections in the Dominican Republic.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - The Dairy program purchased new automation to support antibiotic testing. This project is supported and funded by the FDA.
 - Recruitment for the vacant Microbiologist IV position in Sparks, is in process.
 - Four program staff attended the 52nd Annual Dairy Practices Council (DPC) Conference funded through an FDA grant.
 - Inspection staff conducted 6 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 2 reinspection's, 14 dairy farm inspections and 20 reinspection's.
 - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 18 total equipment tests were conducted.
 - 14 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
 - 2 complaints have been received and investigated.
 - Inspectors conducted 6 facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff have collected 217 milk samples and 37 water samples.
 - Inspection staff evaluated 6 milk plant samplers and 8 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.
 - Inspection staff conducted 2 plant/farm ratings, and 1 lab evaluation, as well as 6 single service facility inspections.

- Inspection staff completed 9 milk tank truck inspections.
- 14 consumer inquiries were investigated.
- Staff completed 25 store checks for illegal products.
- Staff obtained 400 blood samples for Brucellosis testing.
- Inspection staff completed 2 Food Safety Plan reviews and 4 label reviews.
- 2 staff members completed FDA Pasteurization training.
- Following training and evaluation, an additional staff member passed certification to become a Delegated Sampling Surveillance Officer (DSSO).
- Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 154 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
- Audit staff have completed 12 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY22. Audit reviews yielded \$21,865 in remittances due and late fees of \$2,186 were collected.
- 7 new applicants registered as Distributors due directly to the field investigations completed through the dairy product auditing program.
- Dairy Distribution Program currently has 230 licensee accounts.

Industry Impact

- Nevada Animal Import Requirements
 - Compliance with animal entry requirements for the state are in place per NRS and NAC to protect public safety, the health of Nevada’s residents and visiting animals, and commerce from the risks of disease entry.
 - Staff have issued 823 Entry Permits since July 1, 2021.
 - Issued Entry Permits account for 36,492 animals that entered Nevada legally
 - For each entry permit requested and issued, staff must obtain the required documentation dependent on the species being shipped from each requestor, such as a CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection), test results, etc.
 - In the last year, staff identified that many requests for entry into Nevada for large events were abusing a blanket permit process to circumvent the entry requirements. Current staff presume that the blanket permit process had been created years ago as an easier avenue for animal owners to complete the entry process and reduce the workload of staff. Since identifying this issue, the issuing of blanket permits has been reduced and is more scrutinized to ensure the NDA is protecting the residents, visitors, animals, and the economy of Nevada.
 - For more information on entry permits, visit https://agri.nv.gov/Animals/Animal_Disease/Import_Requirements/.