

## September 8, 2021 Board Report

### Director's Office

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#### Industry/External

- Continued to work with government affairs and federal delegation to obtain funding for Nevada's food and agriculture sector.
  - American Rescue Plan Act funding
    - Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program
    - Begun brainstorming with industries the NDA serves to determine what projects could benefit from additional funding to cover gaps and new projects to address needs that are currently unmet.
  - Requested \$500,000 from USDA for a pilot project in the management of the Virginia Range feral/stray horses using a collaborative and science-backed approach including the use of birth control and expanded public safety measures (fencing, diversionary feeding, etc.).
- Attended the Nevada Cattlemen Association's Summer Board meeting.
- Chaired the Western United States Trade Association (WUSATA) annual executive board meeting.
  - Began serving as the lead for hiring a new Executive Director for WUSATA.
- Attended the annual Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) meeting.
- Participated in regular calls with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and USDA leadership to receive information on disease outbreaks, discuss policy updates and provide feedback to USDA and USDA APHIS on program and funding needs.
- Chaired Food Security Council meeting and began work on a 12-month strategic planning process.
- Attended the University of Nevada, Reno's (UNR) College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) advisory board meeting.

#### Partner Coordination

- Sent letter to County Managers/Commissioners to coordinate funding efforts for Mormon Cricket surveys and treatments (copy provided).
- Met with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss Virginia Range boundaries for feral/stray horses.
- Began work the Division of Conservation and Natural Resource (DCNR) on a state drought action plan.
- Met with industry partners in Las Vegas to discuss operation and funding needs.
  - Three Square Food Bank
  - Culinary Academy of Las Vegas
  - Clark County School District Food Services
  - Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
- Met with Food Bank of Northern Nevada to discussion operations and funding needs.
- NDA acted as Emergency Support Function - 11 (ESF-11) for the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) for the Caldor Fire emergency and evacuation. Support was also provided for the Dixie Fire.

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### Executive

- Participated in the Governor's Cabinet calls.
- Attended the Executive Branch Audit Committee meeting to discuss state audit findings for the NDA's federally funded Child Nutrition Programs.
- Participated in a Government Roundtable with Nevada Business Magazine to share the biggest challenges facing government agencies in Nevada, including the pandemic impact, public/private partnerships, red tape, and transparency.
- Participated in USDA Secretary Vilsack's Clark County School visit.
- Attended the State Environmental Commission regulatory meeting to vote on adoption of low and no vehicle emission standards.

STEVE SISOLAK  
Governor

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STATE OF NEVADA  
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August 16, 2021

County Manager/Commissioner  
Address  
City, State Zip

Dear :

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 federal funds issued to Utah and Idaho have also been depleted. USDA-APHIS does not currently have, and will not be seeking, funds for the continued survey and treatment of Mormon Crickets.

As you are aware, Mormon Crickets are a serious threat to Nevada's agricultural industry and cause significant damage to rangeland, resulting in reduced forage impacting livestock and wildlife. For hay and alfalfa producers, a large number of crickets in their harvest prevents them from selling products since crickets are unpalatable for livestock. With less product available, prices for crops, such as hay and alfalfa, rise contributing to higher prices down the supply chain. In addition, Mormon Crickets congregate in large numbers causing slick, hazardous conditions on Nevada roadways as they migrate to other areas for new forage.

The NDA wanted to ensure you were informed that the current funding will no longer be available after the 2022 season. Your thoughts on how funding can be established for upcoming years is critical for the continuation of treatments. It is important that the NDA engage you in the efforts of addressing this matter for future years. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ott  
Director