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### **Industry/External**

- Attended NASDA's Annual Winter Policy Conference along with the committees on Food Systems and Nutrition, Natural Resources, and Plant Agriculture and Pesticide Regulation, representing Nevada in policy amendments guiding the organization.
- Met with leadership at USDA to discuss food and nutrition programs, PARC infrastructure, and plant programs.
- Met with many of Nevada's federal delegation to discuss federal budget proposals and federal language changes to support Nevada's agriculture industries
- Continued to work with government affairs and federal delegation to obtain funding for Nevada's food and agriculture sector.
  - Mormon Cricket funding
  - Specialty Crop Block Grant language
  - Virginia Range feral/stray funding
  - Public lands funding to support invasive weed treatment and reseeding efforts
- 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
  - Continue to work on the 12-month strategic planning process with the Council, UNLV Guinn Center and Blueprint Collaborative.
- Home Feeds Nevada
  - Created through SB370 during the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session, the Home Feeds Nevada Agricultural Food Purchase Program requires the NDA to purchase foods from Nevada growers and producers first before purchasing similar products from out of state and distribute them to Nevada emergency food service providers.
  - A program manager was hired in January to develop the program.

### **Partner Coordination**

- Attended the joint NDA and Made in Nevada Event launching the first Nevada Craft Beverage Passport.
- Partnered with the Division of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to receive funds from the USDA to create mental health resources for Nevada farmers and ranchers.
- Partnering with Department of Health and Human Services to provide additional personnel to enroll childcare centers in federal food programs to support parents going back to work.

### **Executive**

- Presented American Rescue Plan Act funding to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada with Governor Sisolak.
- Presented a department overview of the Joint Interim Committee on Natural Resources.

## March 9, 2022 Board Report

### Director's Office

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- Working to support the Governor's plan of continuing school lunch and breakfast coverage in Nevada.

#### **Internal**

- The NDA has several open positions and is experiencing difficulty filling them in the current market.