
Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture’s (NDA) rebuilding of the Livestock Inspection Program, in accordance with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan and final adoption of the language and fee revisions to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 564 and 565, have allowed the Department to implement the new regulation changes and fee structure effective May 1, 2022.
 - As part of rebuilding the Livestock Inspection Program, the Department has hired 30 state-employed Brand Inspector I positions. Staff have also rewritten the Brand Inspector Class specifications, allowing for the hiring of two Brand Inspector II full-time positions and one Brand Inspector III full-time position. These positions should be posted for accepting applications this month. Additionally, the NDA has been approved to retain up to 20 contracted Brand Inspector positions statewide during this transition ensuring demand for brand inspections will be met.
 - Revisions to the original proposed language in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 571) have been drafted and released. The public survey and small business impact statement have been completed. The first public workshop was held virtually on March 27, 2022. With input received during the first workshop, staff have revised the proposed language and will be scheduling additional in-person workshops with a virtual option this summer.
- 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 fourth quarter updates were completed and submitted to USDA APHIS.
 - The NDA was awarded 2022 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements.
 - Nevada participated in and received confirmation of successful completion of the USDA-APHIS VS Trace Performance Measures for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 cooperative agreement periods.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2021 for the management of Virginia Range feral/estrays (VRE) horses. FY22 calls to date: 644.
 - 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 fencing projects.

- WHC is also working with city, county, and state agencies in the Reno area to address possible new fencing projects.
- WHC reports 27 horse versus vehicle crashes to date for 2021. There were 46 horse versus vehicle crashes reported in 2020. This data does not include the Fernley or USA Parkway areas.
- Relocations: 76 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 entered into a fourth-year non-exclusive cooperative agreement. The current agreement is valid from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023. The NDA continues to receive monthly reports from AWHC covering the VRE horse fertility program. Monthly reports show that AWHC has administered fertility control vaccine to a total of 1,233 individual mares with 1,255 doses (244 doses given as a primer and 1,011 doses as a booster) for FY22. The AWHC database has been updated to include 3,070 individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 448 registered and active accounts for FY22.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - The NDA's four Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY22: 87 livestock investigations, 94 follow up investigations; 7 animal health investigations; 759 animals quarantined that were diverted from CVI and entry permit destination to a cutting event, 16 animals quarantined at a bucking event; 463 traffic stops; 72 warnings issued (36 livestock/brand and 36 animal health); 7 citations issued (4 livestock/brand and 3 animal health); 3,385 phone calls; 675 administrative hours; 56 strays; 20 estrays; 646 brand inspections; 6 transit inspections; 245 training hours; 13 VRE responses; 14 livestock in roadway responses; 6 livestock highway kill, 3 livestock railroad kills; 69 agency assists; 2 crashes with livestock; 11 livestock in roadway responses; 96 hours equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 13,451 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 403,648 animals, including the public livestock auctions.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 12,256 hours and traveled 262,319 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 73 brands, approved 172 new brand applications (32 pending) and transferred 59 brands.
 - Staff have received 2,667 livestock assessment filings for 2021.
 - 4,159 Livestock Assessment letters for 2022 were sent to livestock owners in May.
 - Staff have issued 5,075 livestock movement permits.
 - 98 agriculture licenses for FY22 have been issued.

- The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 178 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 51% and ravens 48%. The remaining 1% was equally represented by mountain lions, striped skunks, a badger, and a feral dog.
 - Staff provided public outreach to 160 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2021. Six samples for testing were taken from predatory animals during this time.
 - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 81 lambs; 14 adult sheep; 22 calves, 2 horses and 10 chickens that were killed during the reporting period. Additionally, feral swine caused damage to 3 acres of alfalfa.
 - Recruitment for Field Assistant II positions for Fallon and Elko are in process
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - For FY22, the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 7,839 procedures accounting for 28,819 tests and/or services to date.
 - In addition, the ADL provided annual Brucellosis surveillance testing for the dairy industry by performing 468 Brucellosis tests.
 - In April, ADL technical staff members successfully completed proficiency testing in rabies testing through the Wisconsin State of Laboratory Hygiene Proficiency Testing.
 - The Division of Animal Industry continues to support the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health's (NDPBH) on a recently awarded grant from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). This grant funds the Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture. The funding from CSTE will support our ongoing efforts to improve education on zoonotic diseases specifically among youth who are actively involved or around livestock such as sheep, beef, chickens, or pigs.
 - 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 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.
 - 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. NDA staff have obtained 106 samples in FY22.

- Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continue, including additional multi-state investigations. As of May 19, 2022, six Nevada premises are under Hold Orders for Trichomoniasis.
- Quarterly, routine swine scrap feeding inspections continue as required per state and federal regulations for two licensed facilities.
- 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.
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) 840 and OCV tags continue to be issued by the Department, in coordination with USDA-APHIS to support animal disease traceability. An additional allocation of tags has been approved for Nevada, and tags will be issued at no charge to veterinarians (OCV and 840) and producers (840) upon request, while supplies last.
- State Veterinarian continues to work in conjunction with NDA, local law enforcement and animal control authorities on animal investigations, including disease/cruelty investigations involving livestock and/or 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) and reported zoonotic disease outbreaks or investigations.
- State Veterinarian completed part 1 of 2 training courses in regulatory official tuberculosis testing.
- State Veterinarian continues to attend meetings with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and State Animal Health Officials regarding African Swine Fever (ASF) detections in Hispaniola.
- State Veterinarian continues to communicate with USDA-APHIS VS and other State Animal Health Officials following the recent detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in neighboring states.
- State Veterinarian attended the Texas A&M Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases Cattle Agribusiness Course in Canyon, Texas, which was funded through USDA-APHIS. The course focused on specialized training for State Animal Health Officials with respect to agribusiness functions of the United States cattle-feeding and dairy industries that could be impacted during a FAD response.
- Veterinary Diagnostician assisted federal partners in providing TB testing to facilitate cattle movement.

- Veterinary Diagnostician and State Veterinarian provided veterinary services support at the Clark County Fair and Nevada Junior Livestock Show, including check-in health evaluations and scrapie tag compliance.
- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - The Dairy Microbiologist IV position in Sparks has been filled. This new staff member has already participated in required proficiency testing with FDA and became certified to run bacterial, antibiotic, and somatic cell tests on raw and finished milk samples.
 - Staff worked expeditiously with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to reinstate a custom-exempt meat facility permit after a septic system failure.
 - One staff member attended the FDA Laboratory Evaluation Officer Course, and another was recertified by FDA to be a Sampling Surveillance Officer.
 - Auditing Staff are working with Information Technology (IT) to modernize our licensee and remittance database program.
 - Inspection staff conducted 45 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 11 reinspection's, 80 dairy farm inspections and 39 reinspection's.
 - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 69 total equipment tests were conducted.
 - 45 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
 - 12 complaints have been received and investigated.
 - Inspectors conducted 11 single service facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff have collected 691 milk samples and 88 water samples.
 - Inspection staff evaluated 40 milk plant samplers and 41 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.
 - Inspection staff conducted 13 plant/farm ratings, and 2 lab evaluation, as well as 11 single service facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff completed 41 milk tank truck inspections.
 - 33 consumer inquiries were investigated.
 - Staff completed 40 store checks for illegal products.
 - Staff obtained 400 blood samples for Brucellosis testing.
 - Inspection staff completed 10 Food Safety Plan reviews and 38 label reviews.
 - 4 staff members have completed FDA Pasteurization training.
 - 2 new custom-exempt meat facilities were permitted.
 - Positions for Administrative Assistant 3 in Sparks, Auditor II positions in Sparks and Las Vegas, Auditor III position in Las Vegas ad Operations Manager position in Sparks have all been filled.
 - Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 318 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
 - Audit staff have completed 31 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY22.
 - Audit reviews have yielded \$23,357 in remittances due and late fees of \$2,186 collected.
 - 17 new applicants registered as Distributors due to the field investigations completed through the dairy product auditing program.
 - Dairy Distribution Program currently has 240 licensee accounts.

Industry Impact

- Nevada Trichomoniasis Update
Dr. Amy Mitchell, DVM