# Nevada Board of Agriculture

**Meeting minutes**
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:00am**

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<th><strong>Meeting Location:</strong></th>
<th>Nevada Department of Agriculture</th>
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<td>405 S. 21st Street</td>
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<td>Sparks, NV 89431</td>
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<td>775-353-3601</td>
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<th><strong>Video Conference:</strong></th>
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<td>2300 East St. Louis Avenue</td>
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<td>Las Vegas, NV 89104</td>
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**Virtual Meeting Information:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86236841306
Meeting ID: 862 3684 1306
Phone: +1-669-900-9128
Phone Access Code: 862 3684 1306

**Public notice**
Below is an agenda of all items to be considered. Action may be taken on items preceded by an asterisk (*). Two asterisks denote possible closed session (**). Items on the agenda may be taken out of the posted order, items may be combined for consideration, and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time at the discretion of the chairperson. Unless noted as an action item, discussion of any item raised during a report or public comment is limited to that necessary for clarification or necessary to decide whether to place the item on a future agenda.

Public comment may be presented in-person (if there is a physical meeting location), by computer, phone, or written comment. Written comments may be submitted by completing a public comment form available online at http://agri.nv.gov/Administration/Board_of_Agriculture/Board_of_Agriculture_Public_Comment/. Written comments can also be submitted via fax to 775-353-3661, email to sbellwood@agri.nv.gov or to any of our offices listed below.

a. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431
b. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801
c. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 2300 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104

The chairperson may limit public comment that is repetitious, does not relate to a matter within the board’s jurisdiction or prevents the meeting from continuing in an orderly manner. All public comment should be addressed to the Board of Agriculture and not an individual member. The board asks that your comments are expressed in a courteous manner. All public comment is limited to three minutes per person. Unused time may not be reserved by the speaker nor allocated to another speaker.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations for assistance at the meeting. Please call Samantha Bellwood at 775-432-4263.

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2300 East Saint Louis Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89104
agri.nv.gov

405 South 21st St.
Sparks, NV 89431

4780 East Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801

page | 1
Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations: Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2300 St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Copies of the agenda, supporting documentation and meeting minutes are available, at no charge, at the Nevada Department of Agriculture website at agri.nv.gov or www.notice.nv.gov or by visiting the Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431.

Agenda

1. Open meeting-call meeting to order by Chair Woody Worthington

   A. Pledge of Allegiance
   B. Moment of Silent Reflection
   C. Roll call


NDA staff in attendance: Jennifer Ott, Samantha Bellwood, Doug Farris, Homa Anooshehpooor, Amber Smyer, Ciara Ressel, Mikayla Jones, Ashley Jeppson, Cadence Matijevich, Bill Striejewske, Dillon Davidson, Richard Yien, Dr. Amy Mitchell, Alexa Johnson, Ruscilla Twyford, Valerie Hoffman, Patricia Hoppe

The meeting was called to order at 9:04am.

2. Public Comment

Greg Hendricks, representing the American Wild Horse Campaign provided public comment outlining the status of their cooperative agreement with the NDA to provide fertility control to the feral/estray horses located on the Virginia Range. The cooperative agreement is set to end in April, and he will work with the NDA on the renewal.

Jennifer Garrett provided public comment in opposition to the proposed regulation changes to NAC 571 that would require annual testing for Trichomoniasis.

Jeff Fontaine, representing the Lincoln County Development Authority, provided public comment supportive of the NDA’s efforts to increase and support emerging meat slaughtering and processing facilities in Nevada.

3. Minutes

   A. *Approve December 8, 2021 minutes (for possible action)

Charlie Frey motioned to approve the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Heather Lackey seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
4. Discussion and approval of Board of Agriculture Bylaws
   A. *Discuss and approve updated board bylaws – Woody Worthington, Chair (for possible action)

Due to legal reasons, Chairman Worthington pulled the item from consideration until further review by the Deputy Attorney General’s office.

5. Discuss Demar Dahl Resolution
   A. *Discuss resolution brought forward by Demar Dahl at the December 8, 2021 meeting during public comment regarding brand inspections – Woody Worthington, Chair (for possible action)

Upon discussion, Chairman Worthington assigned Vice Chair Higbee to conduct further research and the resolution will be further discussed at the June Board of Agriculture meeting.

6. Reno Rodeo Presentation
   A. Presentation of Reno Livestock Event Center renovation plans – Perry DiLoreto and Mike Torvinen (for information only)

7. Board Member Updates on Represented Industries
   A. Industry updates – Board Members (for information only)

8. Director’s Report
   A. Report – Jennifer Ott, Director (for information only)

9. Animal Industry
   A. Board update – Doug Farris, Administrator (for information only)

10. Plant Industry
    A. Board update – Ashley Jeppson, Administrator (for information only)

11. Measurement Standards
    A. Board update – Cadence Matijevich, Administrator (for information only)

12. Administration
    A. Board update – Jerri Conrad, Deputy Director (for information only)

13. Food and Nutrition
14. Public Comment

Pete Paris provided public comment encouraging Chairman Worthington to have a private discussion with the Deputy Attorney General regarding the bylaws and then scheduling an executive session for the board to discuss them before bringing them to a regular meeting.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:51am.
To; The State of Nevada Department of Agriculture Director, Members of the Nevada Board of Agriculture, and The Nevada State Veterinarian,

Hello,

We are writing this letter to voice our opposition to mandatory yearly Trichomoniasis testing of bulls in Nevada for the following reasons;

First; The current regulations are sufficient and if properly enforced can ensure that problem Trich areas in Nevada can be cleaned up.

Years ago, there was a similar proposal to require mandatory testing. Because the proposal was not well received, ranchers and agency personnel got together and developed the current Trich regulations. The existing regulations require that when a bull tests positive, then all the neighboring herds are to be notified and their bulls tested and cleaned up and if another bull is found positive, then those neighboring herds will have to Trich test and clean up any positive bulls, etc. This regulation enables the State Vet to clean up problem Trich areas and ensures that producers won’t be re-infected continually from a neighbor’s bull. It is a good compromise between no regulations and mandatory annual bull testing. We have heard that enforcement of the current regulations may be difficult because the wording may not be strong enough. Modifying the existing regulations to ensure enforcement may be needed and would be the wiser, more realistic path to take versus requiring yearly Trich testing.

Second; Yearly mandatory Trich testing will put a financial and logistical burden on ranchers. Current costs to Trich test range from $25 to $50/bull for the culture test. The more accurate PCR test costs between $50 and $80/bull. This cost is only for the vet and testing. It doesn’t include the day of labor and maintenance of the facilities to test the bulls. We all know bulls are difficult to handle and very hard on equipment and corrals and the logistics of gathering and testing the bulls
can be very problematic especially on producers that don’t ever gather all their bulls at once. I know that, for us, yearly testing will be a real burden. Our bulls are usually in a couple of different spots so that means moving the chute, and scheduling a vet twice or 3 times to test bulls that were lost and found later causing increased costs for vet travel and days lost to testing. This adds another yearly mandatory cost to an industry that cannot raise its prices to pay for these extra costs.

Third; Mandatory testing does not eradicate Trich. The states that do have mandatory testing still have positive bulls. Yes, less than they did before mandatory testing but they haven’t been able to eradicate Trich and won’t be able to because bulls are only half of the problem, open dry cows are the other. If clean bulls are put with open dry cows that have Trich, the bulls will get re-infected and go on to infect the cows that they are breeding.

Fourth; Nevada does not have a statewide Trich problem so there is no need to force producers that do not have a Trich problem in their area to test for Trich yearly. Data provided from the NV Dept of Ag showed that from 2014 to 2019, 99.2% of the Nevada bulls tested were not infected. We currently have placed a State of Nevada Public Records Request to the Dept. of Ag. to get more current testing rate results. This low incidence of positive bulls in Nevada proves that producers are already taking steps to prevent Trich through their own voluntary testing and management. Producers that are controlling Trich by taking all the correct steps to stop Trich should not be penalized with government mandated testing.

The Nevada Dept. of Agriculture forcing mandatory yearly Trich testing is an unnecessary excessive government intrusion especially when ranchers are already stressed both economically and physically by low prices and drought.

Therefore, we want to voice our opposition to these proposed changes and make you aware that there are many other producers against it also. This issue was discussed in 2019, so at that time we distributed a petition against changing the current regulations. One hundred and eighty ranchers signed this petition,
demonstrating their opposition to mandatory yearly Trich testing. We have included a copy of this petition and their signatures with this letter.

These proposed changes are unnecessary and would be costly and burdensome for producers to comply with and for the state to enforce. Enforcement of the current regulations will achieve the same goal.

Please call me at (775) 934-5528 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Garrett
Hooper Ranch
For Nevada Livestock Owners and Producers 2019

We, as Nevada cattle producers are opposed to mandatory yearly Trichomoniasis testing in Nevada. A regulation for mandatory yearly Trich testing of bulls is being proposed with possible fines of $1000 per bull and/or not providing brand inspection for producers who do not comply. Testing will cost from $25 to $80 per bull per year. In the last six years, 99.2% of the Nevada bulls tested have not been infected (data provided by the NV Dept. of Ag). NV currently has Trich regulations that are not being enforced. Infected areas can be cleaned up with the enforcement and possible modification of the existing Trich regulations. Therefore, there is no need for burdening producers with another costly government regulation.

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1. Craig Spratling  
2. Jean Spratling  
3. Amelia Wackley  
4. Taylor Willey  
5. Shane Ritchie  
6. Jennette Ritchie  
7. Travis Myers  
8. Mccain Myers  
9. Dale Loftspeich  
10. Amy Myers  
11. Debbie Loftspeich  
12. Dusty Zagrasso  
13. Martha P. Hoots  
14. Mike Morrison  
15. Wyatt Hoover  
16. Jim Wachtel  
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18. Tami Dahl  
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20. Tori Weigle St. Wright

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5. Conk Revene  
6. Chuck Wolf  
7. Barbara Wolf  
8. Justin Wolf  
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10. Synee Hougnard  
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14. Edyann U. Filippini  
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18. Alvin Pathi  
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For Nevada Livestock Owners and Producers  2019

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**Print Name:**
1. Robert Steele
2. Sherri Steele
3. Tony Steele
4. Rebekah Steele
5. Kaelene Chinian
6. Kirk Standard
7. Jody Felton
8. Steve Medlin
9. Glenda Medlin
10. Linda Stagg
11. Julian Kymb
12. Madden C Spencer Jr.
13. Levi Spencer
14. Kyla Nelson
15. Michael Nelson
16. Michael D Nelson
17. Mark Stewart
18. Derek Farmower
19. Floyd Summers
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**Signature:**

[Signatures]
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1. Heston Jones
2. Dorian Bayer
3. Stephen Bayer
4. Sherry Brough
5. Joren Brough
6. Wilde Brough
7. Samson Brough
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2. JoAnn Ellison  
3. Jared Ellison  
4. Daniel E. Beitia  
5. Gerri Beitia  
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Print Name:

1. Angie Mariluch
2. Marian Filippini
3. Frank Filippini
4. Shawn Mariluch

Signature:

[Handwritten signatures]
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Print Name:
1. Bruce Jensen
2. Robert PET
3. David Jensen
4. Hal Freeman
5. Jacob Carter
6. Dillion Mathews
7. Quyen Kester
8. Terry Souza
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Print Name:

1. Jennifer Garrett
2. Travis Baulch
3. David Boney
4. Musen Garrett
5. Ed Garret
6. Blake M. Spratling
7. Mike Spratling
8. Linda Eldridge
9. George Eldridge
10. Scott L. Hooper
11. Mark Hooper
12. Kirk Hooper

Signature:

[Signatures]

[Signatures]
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Print Name:  
1. Sandy Rosemond  
2. Raymond K. Rosemond

Signature:  

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We, as Nevada cattle producers are opposed to mandatory yearly Trichomoniasis testing in Nevada. A regulation for mandatory yearly Trich testing of bulls is being proposed with possible fines of $1000 per bull and/or not providing brand inspection for producers who do not comply. Testing will cost from $25 to $80 per bull per year. In the last six years, 99.2% of the Nevada bulls tested have not been infected (data provided by the Nv Dept. of Ag). Nv currently has Trich regulations that are not being enforced. Infected areas can be cleaned up with the enforcement and possible modification of the existing Trich regulations. Therefore, there is no need for burdening producers with another costly government regulation.

Print Name:  
1. Auleene Ratcliffe  
2. J. T. Wines  
3. Chip Work  
4. Julie Charreiro  
5. Jeffrey Knight  
6. Sam Marvel  
7. Clyde L Vega  
8. Martha Vega  
9. Ty Van Norman  
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Signature:  
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For Nevada Livestock Owners and Producers 2019

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Print Name:
1. Ferd Higbee Jr.
2. Guy Pans
3. Brandon Hazir
4. Coach Hackett
5. Ryan Hackett
6. Peter Hackett
7. Vaughn Higbee
8. Anita Higbee
9. Amanda Higbee
10. Kayla Steele
11. Chris Che/Stock
12. Kim Hooper
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Signature: