

September 14, 2022, Board Report

Division of Animal Industry



Division Overview

- Pending matters of significance
 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDA) rebuilding of the Livestock Inspection Program and in alignment with the Livestock Inspection Program Business Plan, the following tasks have been completed or are in process: 30 state-employed intermittent Brand Inspectors have been hired; 20 contracted Brand Inspector positions were retained for hiring and program inspection needs; 3 full-time Brand Inspector positions are undergoing the final state approval process; 33 Surface Pro tablets have been secured to replace aging iPads and distribution to inspectors has begun; replacement Brand inspector printers have been ordered, staff are investigating possible electronic programs to replace paper processes at public livestock auctions; and program fee structure revisions were implemented May 1, 2022.
- Partnership activities
 - USDA-APHIS
 - NDA staff continue working in conjunction with USDA-APHIS in performing and furthering Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) plan.
 - The NDA continues to utilize 2022 grant funding from USDA-APHIS for ADT and Umbrella cooperative agreements.
 - Wild Horse Connection (WHC)
 - The NDA renewed the WHC non-exclusive cooperative agreement in August 2022 for management of Virginia Range feral/estrays (VRE) horses. FY23 calls to date: 151
 - To prevent horses straying from outside the boundaries of the Virginia Range area in Fernley, WHC continues to work with city, county, and state agencies on future fencing projects.
 - WHC continues to perform diversionary feeding in NDA approved locations to draw horses away from highways and urban areas.
 - WHC reports 5 horses versus vehicle crashes to date for 2022. There were 27 for 2021 and 46 reported in 2020. This data does not include the Fernley or USA Parkway areas.
 - Relocations: 4 horses have been relocated from various urban areas and locations outside of the Virginia Range where the horses have strayed 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 490 individual mares with

497 doses (114 doses given as a primer and 383 doses as a booster) for FY23. The AWHC database has been updated to include 3,037 living and individually identified horses located in the Virginia Range.

- The NDA joined the BLM for a flyover survey of horses on the range that included the Virginia Range. The survey estimated a total of 3,567 feral/stray horses in the Virginia Range area.

Program Updates

- Commercial Feed
 - This program has 284 registered and active accounts for FY23.
- Livestock Enforcement
 - The NDA's four Agricultural Police Officers have dedicated their time toward the following duties during FY23: 14 livestock investigations resulting in the dedication of 66 staff; 3 animal health investigations resulting in the dedication of 16.5 staff hours; 268 animals quarantined for EIA positive investigation; 59 traffic stops; 3 check sites, totaling 6 staff hours; 13 warnings issued (7 livestock/brand and 6 animal health); 514 phone calls; 113.5 administrative hours; 7 strays; 8 estrays; 53 brand inspections resulting in the dedication of 74.5 staff hours; 10 transit inspections; 157.5 training hours; 2 VRE responses; 5 livestock in roadway responses; 2 livestock railroad kills; 24 agency assists; 1 crash with livestock; 9.5 hours of equipment maintenance.
- Livestock Identification
 - Staff have completed 2,543 brand inspection clearance certificates for a total of 57,473 animals, including the public livestock auctions.
 - Brand inspectors have worked 2,269 hours and traveled 50,063 miles performing brand inspections.
 - Division staff renewed 92 brands, approved 69 new brand applications and transferred 11 brands.
 - Staff have received 2,238 livestock assessment filings for 2022.
 - Staff have issued 2,330 livestock movement permits.
 - 12 agriculture licenses for FY23 have been issued.
 - The Sparks office and program staff have received more than 40 phone calls or emails relating to the VRE horses since July 1, 2022.
- 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 FY23. The primary species of predatory animals addressed during the year includes coyotes 28% and ravens 72%.
 - Staff provided public outreach to 172 individuals or businesses since July 1, 2022. No samples for testing taken from predatory animals during this time.
 - Agricultural product losses verified by staff consisted of 80 lambs; 4 adult sheep, 33 lambs; 3 calves, 100 chickens that were killed during the reporting period.
 - Recruitment for Field Assistant II positions for Fallon and Elko are in process.
- Veterinary Medical Services
 - The NDA continues to submit samples for sheep and goats to meet requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. NDA staff have obtained an additional 52 samples. For the federal fiscal year ending on October 1, 2022,

Nevada has met the requirements for goats, and is working to meet the requirements for sheep.

- Investigations involving Trichomoniasis infected and exposed herds continue, including additional multi-state investigations. As of August 24, 2022, 2 Nevada premises are under quarantine for Trichomoniasis.
- Quarterly, routine swine scrap feeding inspections continue as required per state and federal regulations for the State's two licensed facilities.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) investigations are ongoing, with a total of 8 counties with detections. The RHDV2 vaccine, manufactured in the United States, continues to be available on Emergency Use Authorization, to Nevada veterinarians.
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) 840 and Official Calhoun Vaccination 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.
- The NDA's application for an additional funding amendment of \$4,599 was approved by USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services to further Nevada's Animal Disease Traceability goals.
- Performance Reports were submitted to USDA-APHIS VS for Cooperative Agreements for periods FY21 (final) and FY22 (Q1).
- Staff continue to work in conjunction with NDA law enforcement, 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 are ongoing, including multi-state investigations.
- Staff continue to communicate with Centers for Disease Control, and OneHealth partners, regarding current and emerging zoonotic diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome-CoronaVirus-2 and Monkeypox.
- Staff continue to attend meetings with USDA-APHIS VS and State Animal Health Officials regarding African Swine Fever (ASF) detections in Hispaniola.
- Nevada's first detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza during the 2022 outbreak, was confirmed on July 7, 2022 in a backyard flock in the Carson City area. Staff worked in coordination with USDA-APHIS VS following the detection, including subsequent surveillance in the control zone, which was released on July 29, 2022. Staff continue to respond to any reported sick bird and coordinate with USDA-APHIS VS on testing. Staff continue to communicate with the Nevada Department of Wildlife regarding impacts in the wild bird population.
- Staff continue to work in coordination with USDA-APHIS VS following a detection of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) in a horse at a facility in Clark County. The facility remains under quarantine as the investigation continues, and until all horses on premises have completed required testing.

- Veterinary Diagnostician attended the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs convention in Minneapolis.
- State Veterinarian attended the Western States Livestock Health Association meeting in Bellingham, Washington. Topics of discussion included Trichomoniasis, emergency disease response, and secure food supply. and discussions will continue at the United States Animal Health Association meeting this fall.
- For FY23, the Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) has performed 1,851 procedures accounting for 5,205 tests and/or services to date. This total number includes 2,000 (EIA) tests, which was a significant increase for the laboratory.
- The ADL has performed West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance testing on 8,300 mosquitos submitted in pools by partnering vector and public health agencies. To date, no positive WNV cases have been reported.
- Each year, the ADL is required to participate in Proficiency Testing conducted by the National Animal Laboratory Health Network, as well as an annual inspection conducted by USDA. In August, the ADL technical staff obtained annual approval to conduct EIA testing.
- The ADL continues to provide non-human rabies surveillance for Nevada. To date, there have been 206 cases, and 5 positive bats found in Clark, Douglas, and Washoe counties.
- In August, the ADL began hosting the Truckee Meadows Veterinary Nursing Program Class of 2023. On a weekly basis, a total of nineteen students will visit the site. The ADL's Veterinary Diagnostician, Laboratory Supervisor and Microbiologists provided outreach and education to each student. The students are provided training on topics including disease traceability, state and federal regulations, laboratory testing procedures and zoonotic diseases.
- In July, the ADL Supervisor performed verification studies on automation located in the Elko laboratory. These instruments will support Trichomoniasis testing. The division has experienced challenges in filling the vacant Microbiologist position and is attempting to underfill the position.
- The ADL Supervisor completed one inspection of a Nevada veterinary practitioner laboratory-site conducting Trichomoniasis cultures. The site also successfully completed the NDA/ADL issued proficiency testing
- The Division of Animal Industry continues to support the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health on a recently awarded grant from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. This grant funds the Influenza and Zoonoses Education among Youth in Agriculture and will support 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.

- Dairy/Processing/Auditing
 - Inspection staff conducted 9 food manufacturing/processing facility inspections, 2 reinspection's, 17 dairy farm inspections and 5 reinspection's.
 - Of the 14 milk pasteurizers in the state, 11 total equipment tests were conducted.
 - 20 warning and compliance notifications were issued.
 - 1 complaint has been received and investigated.
 - Inspectors conducted 6 single service facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff have collected 158 milk samples.
 - Inspection staff evaluated 4 milk plant samplers and 9 bulk milk hauler sampler/weighers.
 - Inspection staff conducted 2 plant/farm ratings, and 2 lab evaluations, as well as 6 single service facility inspections.
 - Inspection staff completed 4 milk tank truck inspections.
 - 8 consumer inquiries were investigated.
 - Staff completed 1 store check for illegal products.
 - Inspection staff completed 2 Food Safety Plan reviews and 23 label reviews.
 - 4 staff members have completed FDA Pasteurization training.
 - 2 new custom-exempt meat facilities permitted.
 - Auditors conducted retail price surveys and general store check investigations for 77 locations in the southern and northern marketing areas.
 - Audit staff have completed 14 investigative, remittance and close out audits to date for FY23.
 - Audit reviews have yielded \$2,533.35 in remittances due and late fees of \$2,150.81 collected.
 - 4 new applicants registered as Distributors due to the field investigations completed through the dairy product auditing program.
 - Dairy Distribution Program currently has 243 licensee accounts.

Industry Impact

- NDA Dairy Program Overview
Dr. Lisa Burnett, DVM