

Industry/External

- Continued to work with government affairs and federal delegation to obtain funding for Nevada's food and agriculture sector.
 - Drought Livestock Assistance
 - Submitted request to federal delegation to secure additional emergency funding assistance for Nevada's livestock producers experiencing increased operating costs due to historic, record-breaking drought and wildfire conditions.
 - Submitted request to USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Ducheneaux requesting more adequate emergency disaster assistance for Nevada's ranchers experiencing drought and wildfire conditions.
 - Virginia Range feral/estray funding
 - Project manager to erect fencing in the Virginia Range recruitment in process.
- 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 Council on Food Security meeting.
- Attended annual Nevada Association of Conservation Districts meeting.
- Attended annual Nevada Cattlemen's Association meeting.
- Attended annual Nevada Farm Bureau meeting.
- Federal Funding
 - Home Feeds Nevada
 - Since it's official launch on August 26, Home Feeds Nevada has purchased \$61,055 of locally produced milk (360 half gallons), meats (1,414 pounds) and produce (30,906 pounds) to distribute to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square.
 - Nevada State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program
 - The project manager has begun drafting revisions to the language in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 583 relating to meat and poultry inspection to fulfill USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) requirements of "at least equal to." Upon completion and approval of this draft, the project manager will forward the draft to USDA for review and approval by USDA Federal State Audit staff. Workshops will then be scheduled as part of the Administrative Rule Making process to gather public comments on the proposed revisions. Additionally, the project manager has begun the writing of the Nevada state plan, which will help address any questions USDA FSIS may have during the development of the program. Regular conversations with USDA FSIS have continued to ensure program start up objectives are being met correctly.

- Food Security Programs
 - \$9 million has been utilized to invest in the needs of nonprofits engaged in food security and to cover gaps exposed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, setting Nevada up for long-term recovery.
 - The Nevada Community Food Access Expansion grant awarded an additional \$6 million to organizations to enhance their food distribution infrastructure to increase food access in underserved communities throughout Nevada.
 - The Rural Food Hub grant awarded \$3 million the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to establish a food storage and distribution center, located in rural Nevada, that can store and distribute food to communities facing food access barriers due to their proximity to urban areas.
 - Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
 - Using \$400,000 in ARPA funds, the NDA, along with CSFP partners, launched the rebrand CSFP to the Nevada Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program to better reflect what the program does and the senior community it serves. The rebrand includes a new logo that appears on all food packages and additional fresh fruits and vegetables to the monthly food package.
- Universal Free School Meals
 - The NDA received approval from the Interim Finance Committee to use \$75 million in ARPA funding to continue free-universal school meals for the 2022-2023 school year due to the USDA expiration of waivers that provided free meals to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic. As reimbursements for school meals have been received, an additional request of \$21.8 million, using additional ARPA funds for Fiscal Year 24 will be heard at the Interim Finance Committee meeting on December 15 to continue to provide free school meals to students.

Partner Coordination

- Continuing to partner with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide additional personnel to enroll childcare centers in federal food programs to support parents going back to work.
- Continuing to partner with DHHS on Farmer/Ranch Stress Assistance. A survey was completed in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension to gauge Nevada producer-specific concerns. Assigned staff also completed SafeTalk and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training. The Office of Suicide Prevention also completed SafeTalk training for 10 new trainers to provide additional trainings in Elko, White Pine and Churchill counties.

Executive

December 14, 2022 Board Report

Director's Office



- Continued as the staff advisory council representative for the Western Governors Association.
- Attended White House Conference on Hunger, Food and Nutrition.
- Met with Associate Chief Louis Aspey and Deputy Chief of Programs Karen Woodrich with the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to discuss funding for Nevada conservation projects.

Internal

- The NDA continues to experience difficulty filling several open positions in the current job market.