



2025 BIENNIAL REPORT



Nevada
Department
of Agriculture



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The Nevada Department of Agriculture's (NDA) mission is to preserve, protect and promote Nevada's agriculture. The Department has over 230 dedicated employees providing services in its five divisions, Administrative Services, Animal Industry, Measurement Standards, Food and Nutrition, and Plant Health and Compliance. The NDA's \$288 million budget facilitates regulatory and administrative work in agriculture and food manufacturing industries, protecting public and environmental health and worker safety, and providing food distribution and oversight for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school and community nutrition programs.

AGENCY HISTORY

The State Board of Agriculture was created by the 1885 Nevada Legislature. Chapter 268 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (later changed to NRS 561) established the State Board of Stock Commissioners in 1915, consisting of three members, all experienced stockmen, appointed by the governor. The board had control of all matters pertaining to the cattle, horse, and hog industries. Sheep were regulated by the State Board of Sheep Commissioners.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Appointed by the governor, the current Board of Agriculture is comprised of 13 community leaders who establish NDA policy and represent industry groups to provide knowledge, input background as to the activity of the Department, and verify laws and programs administered by the Department are carried out.



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Over the past biennium, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has made strides to improve customer service and department efficiency, while working towards addressing infrastructure obstacles facing Nevada’s agriculture industry. We recognize that our capacity to effectively serve Nevadans depends on streamlining access to our services. The NDA has strategically allocated resources towards initiatives designed to modernize our operations and improve our ability to fulfill our mission to preserve, protect and promote Nevada agriculture.

One such achievement towards improved customer service and department efficiency has been the digital transformation of the **Livestock Entry Permit** application process. Transitioning this process online has provided a more user-friendly experience for veterinarians and industry professionals, allowing them the flexibility to access and complete permit applications at their convenience, outside of normal business hours.

In recognition of how important strong infrastructure is for providing great service, the NDA has taken steps to improve current limitations. One major step towards this is securing a **new food warehouse in Las Vegas** for the Division of Food and Nutrition. Funded by State ARPA dollars, this will bring together all USDA food products under one roof, making operations more efficient and improving how we serve Nevada’s food-insecure population.

Additionally, the NDA is investing in infrastructure to support Nevada’s rural communities. We’ve committed \$3 million to the **Nevada Rural Food Hub**, led by the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. This project will create a distribution center in rural Nevada, improving food access for communities far from urban areas.

Over the biennium, the NDA has invested in the necessary replacement of vehicles and equipment needed to fulfill our mission into the next decade. This includes passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, motorized equipment and highly specialized laboratory equipment. Additionally, the **Elko Animal Disease Laboratory** was reopened and staffed with a full-time microbiologist to provide needed testing to our rural communities, and expand our laboratory capacity to meet the growing needs of our industry.

In addition, we are excited about expanding market opportunities for Nevada’s agricultural producers through the establishment of the **State Meat and Poultry Inspection program**. This program, undertaken in cooperation with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, will broaden inspection services, enabling smaller establishments, particularly those in rural locations, to access markets within Nevada. The NDA will be working with a third-party laboratory to provide essential testing for Nevada’s meat supply. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering a robust and secure food system for all Nevadans.

We are confident that these endeavors will not only enhance our operational efficiency but also empower us to better serve the needs of our customers and advance Nevada agriculture.

Sincerely,
Director Goicoechea

CONTACT



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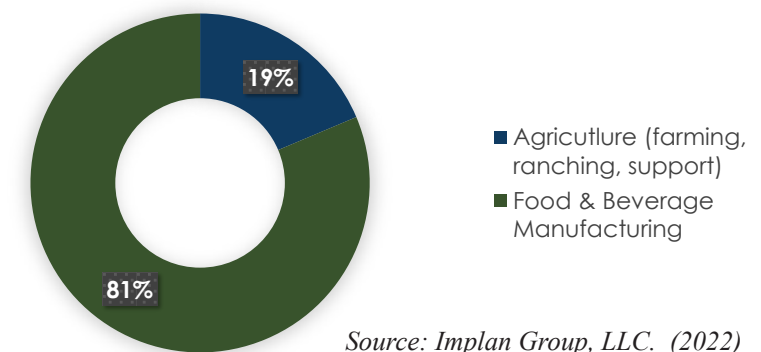


FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AT A GLANCE NEVADA

Economic output of the food and agriculture sector in Nevada:

- Nevada had an economic output of **\$5.5 billion** in 2021.
 - » Agriculture (ranching, farming and support*): \$996.6 million dollars
 - » Food and beverage manufacturing: \$4.5 billion dollars
- Nevada had an economic output of **\$6.5 billion** in 2022.
 - » Agriculture (ranching, farming and support): \$1.2 billion dollars
 - » Food and beverage manufacturing: \$5.3 billion dollars

NEVADA FOOD & AGRICULTURE SECTOR ECONOMIC OUTPUT IN 2022



- In 2022, the food and agriculture sector consisted of:
 - » **19,466** direct jobs
 - » Over **\$1 billion** in wages

*Note: The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) defines agriculture support activities such as cotton ginning, crop dusting and spraying, orchard cultivation, pest control, animal breeding, and forestry services.



DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

CONTACT



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STATUES AND REGULATIONS
 NAC 561
 NRS 561

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
 • 37 full-time
 • 9 contract

The NDA's Division of Administrative Services provides oversight and assistance to the Department through fiscal matters, grant management, information technology support and management, personnel and communications. The Division of Administrative Services also provides information to the public and supports industry through education, outreach, economic development and trade.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEVADA AGRICULTURE TRADE ACTIVITIES

The NDA has represented Nevada agriculture, food and beverage industries through trade missions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and throughout the regions in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

TRADE ACTIVITIES

CY 2023	CY 2024
6 TRADE MISSIONS & TRADE SHOWS	9 TRADE MISSIONS & TRADE SHOWS
22 PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES	45 PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

STATE MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM

The **State Meat and Poultry Inspection** program will diversify market opportunities, strengthen local supply chains and ensure an adequate and safe meat supply. Through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, the state will implement the inspection program to expand inspection services to facilities wishing to sell meat and poultry products within Nevada, including smaller establishments in rural locations.

WOMEN'S FARM2FOOD ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

The NDA has partnered with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation to develop a professional development program to equip female specialty crop producers in Nevada with the ability to scale up their businesses and expand production of food products and enter new regional markets. The 2023-2024 program consisted of 10 participants, all providing positive feedback on the benefits of the program. The 2024-2025 **Women's Farm to Food Accelerator** cohort consists of 13 participants from throughout Nevada.



NEVADA CRAFT BEVERAGE PASSPORT

In the last biennium, the NDA launched the second and third **Nevada Craft Beverage Passports**. This program supports and promotes Nevada's agriculture and craft beverage industry. The 2024 passport featured 45 Nevada craft beverage makers throughout the state and encouraged individuals over 21 years of age to visit and support participating locations.

The Nevada Craft Beverage Passport is a guide to a fun, educational and rewarding time exploring Nevada's craft beverage establishments. All participants in the Nevada Craft Beverage Passport make their brewed, distilled or fermented beverages locally and locations using locally sourced agriculture ingredients are highlighted.





DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

CONTACT



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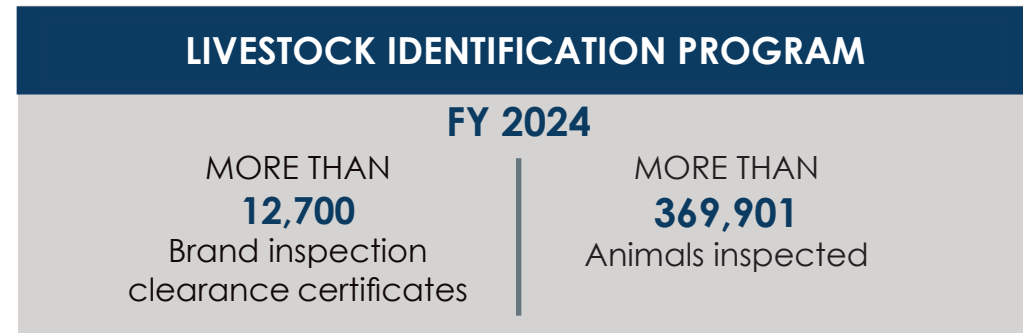
William Dawson
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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- 36 full-time
- 31 part-time/intermittent
- 21 contracted part-time positions

The NDA's Division of Animal Industry is responsible for animal disease detection and prevention, food safety protection, livestock identification, livestock theft prevention, agricultural products dealer licensing, commercial feed, natural resources protection and Predatory Animal and Rodent Control to protect public safety and agricultural resources. The division also oversees and regulates the state's animal import requirements.

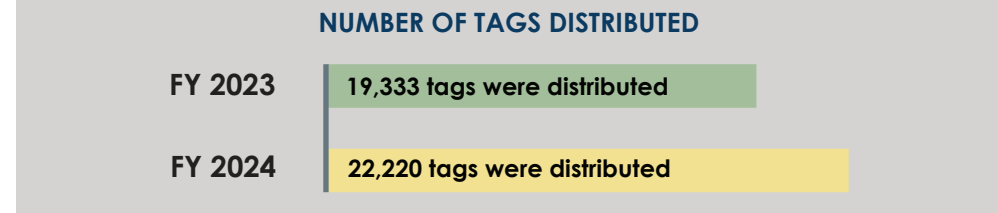
The **Livestock Identification** program protects livestock producers, performs and records transfer of ownership, and monitors the movement of livestock across Nevada and between states to prevent loss or theft of livestock, aids in recovery of livestock, and assists in the monitoring and prevention of diseases through brand recording and inspections.



The **Animal Disease Laboratory** protects public health through its monitoring of diseases like rabies and West Nile Virus that can be transmitted from animals to humans. The lab is also responsible for diagnosis and control of any animal diseases of economic significance to the agriculture industry, testing for diseases which cannot be spread to humans but do pose a threat to the agriculture industry, such as trichomoniasis and equine infectious anemia (EIA).

- In the last biennium, the NDA completed implementation of a new laboratory information management system. This new system will create efficient processes, improve quality control, meet accreditation requirements and provide for better customer service to Nevadans.
- Electronic ID (EID) and official identification tags continue to be issued by the NDA, in coordination with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to support Animal Disease Traceability and herd management.

RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION



The **Agriculture Enforcement** program is comprised of Nevada Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certified sworn peace officers that serve the NDA, as well as the citizens and visitors of Nevada. The Agricultural Police Officers serve the NDA with expertise in agricultural laws and crimes. The department's police officers' primary focus is the protection of public health and safety and enforcement of all agricultural laws through patrolling Nevada roadways to prevent agricultural products that have not met the mandated requirements of plant or animal health and livestock identification from exiting or entering the state.

- The NDA currently has three Agriculture Police Officer positions located in Sparks, Winnemucca and Las Vegas, and two to be filled in rural Nevada.

The **Dairy and Food Safety** programs consist of **Laboratory Services and Dairy Inspection**.

- The Food Safety program inspects, licenses and regulates all steps involved in the production and sale of dairy products to Nevada consumers.
- The Food Safety Laboratory is accredited by the Food and Drug Administration's Laboratory Proficiency Evaluation Team as the state's central milk laboratory, serving a significant role in the FDA Grade "A" Milk Safety program. The laboratory offers a variety of tests to the dairy and milk processing industry to ensure the quality and safety of milk entering the market.

The **Predatory Animal and Rodent Control** program protects Nevada's agriculture, natural resources, property and public safety from the threat of injury, diseases, damage or economic loss due to predatory animals, rodents or other wildlife.

- The program addressed thousands of predatory animals across Nevada in the last biennium, including coyotes, mountain lions, ravens and starlings.

The **Nevada Virginia Range Feral/Estray Horse Management Earmark** is dedicated for the management of feral and estray horses in the Virginia Range. In 2025, the NDA will release the results of a census verifying the current feral/estray horse population on the Virginia Range. This will support the development of long-term management solutions including establishing fencing in high-traffic areas. The NDA will also continue to enhance infrastructure in the Virginia Range region to improve public safety.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- | NRS | NAC |
|---------------|----------------|
| • 561.035 | • 441A.410-445 |
| • 569 | • 561 |
| • 571 | • 565 |
| • 574 | • 566 |
| • 576.129-131 | • 567.010-090 |
| • 577 | • 569 |
| • 587 | • 571 |
| • 583 | • 573 |
| • 584 | • 575 |
| | • 576 |
| | • 587 |
| | • 583 |
| | • 584 |

UPDATED REGULATIONS

REG. NUMBER	STATUS
NAC 564	ADOPTED
NAC 565	ADOPTED
NAC 571	Workshops were completed in Sept. 2024. Hearing to be scheduled for early 2025.

UPDATES TO NAC CHAPTER 571

The NDA has proposed amendments to NAC Chapter 571 on bull testing for trichomoniasis to ensure comprehensive testing for herds exposed to the disease and limit disease spread.

Under the proposed regulation, owners or lessees of infected and exposed herds are required to submit all their bulls for annual trichomoniasis testing until all eligible bulls within the herd test negative for trichomoniasis for five consecutive years.

For more information, visit our website at agri.nv.gov/Animals/Animal_Disease/Animal_Disease_Home



DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION

CONTACT



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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

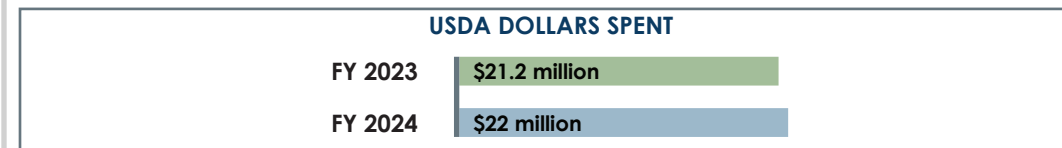
- 28 full-time
- 1 contract

1. Yearly data qualified as "FY" is defined by "fiscal year."
2. Yearly data qualified as "SY" is defined by "school year."

The NDA's Division of Food and Nutrition provides access to nutritious food for Nevada children, seniors and other food insecure populations.

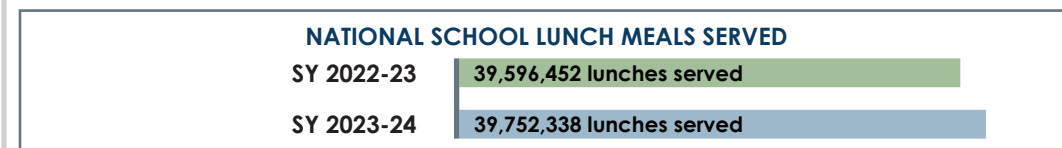
The Division of Food and Nutrition offers child nutrition support through the following programs:

The **Child Nutrition Commodity Support** program provides USDA purchased foods for the Child and Adult Care Food program, the National School Lunch program and the Summer Food Service program.

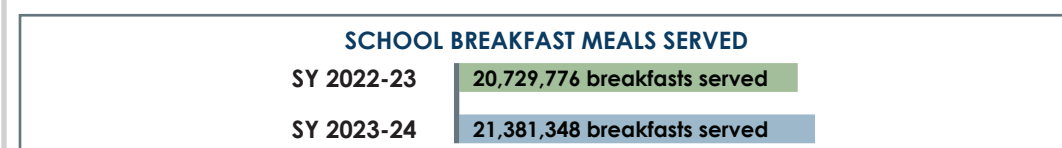


The **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)** provides students with nutritious lunches. Participating schools are encouraged to offer fresh fruits and/or vegetables, whole grain rich choices and low-fat or non-fat dairy with the NSLP meal patterns.

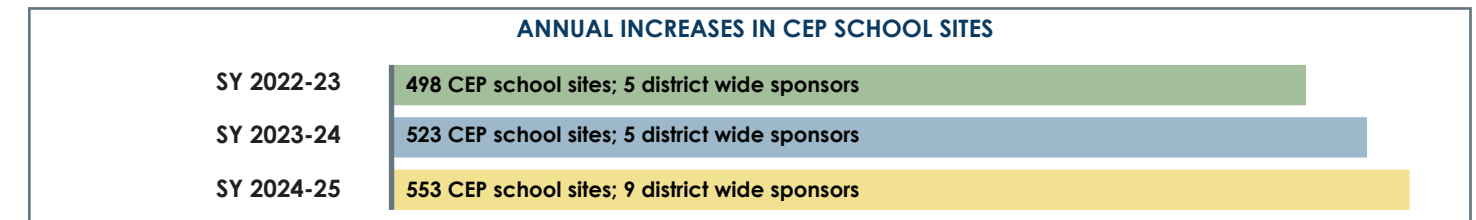
- The State of Nevada invested \$95,790,268.56 for **free school meals** in Nevada schools operating the NSLP for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic year. State American Rescue Plan Act funds were used to continue pandemic recovery and ensure students had food to eat by providing free school breakfast and lunch. School meals had been free since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 through U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waivers. Prior to the pandemic, the only meals provided free or at a reduced rate were at schools operating the NSLP to students whose families met eligibility requirements. As the U.S. transitioned to pandemic recovery efforts, the waivers were not renewed at a national level for all students. The NDA recognized this gap and worked to build a program that would ensure students receive free school meals for two more academic years to allow school districts and parents time to transition back to the pre-pandemic use of waivers.



The **School Breakfast Program** provides nutritious breakfasts to promote learning readiness and healthy eating behaviors. Breakfasts were also offered free to all students operating the NSLP in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.



The **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** is a federal meal service option that allows schools with high populations of food-insecure students to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students. With the NSLP program returning to its normal structure, the NDA has worked with Nevada school districts and charters to increase CEP schools to 553 statewide with nine school districts fully participating. The NDA has been working with qualifying schools and school districts throughout the state to elect CEP and increase access to nutritious school meals throughout Nevada.



The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** provides free, nutritious meals to children 18 and younger when school is not in session.

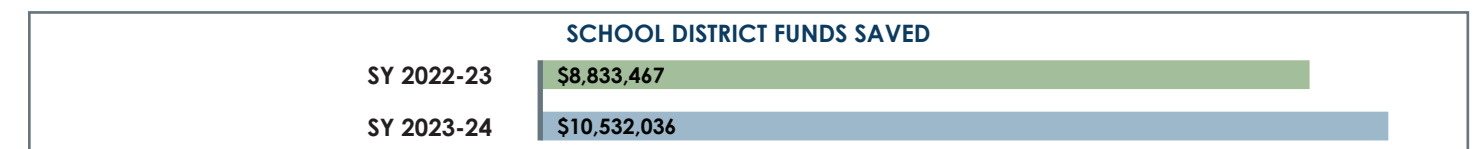


The **Farm-to-School (F2S)** program connects students and schools to Nevada farmers', fresh and healthy local foods. It provides resources and training to get local foods into classrooms and lunchrooms through farmer-classroom connections and school gardens.

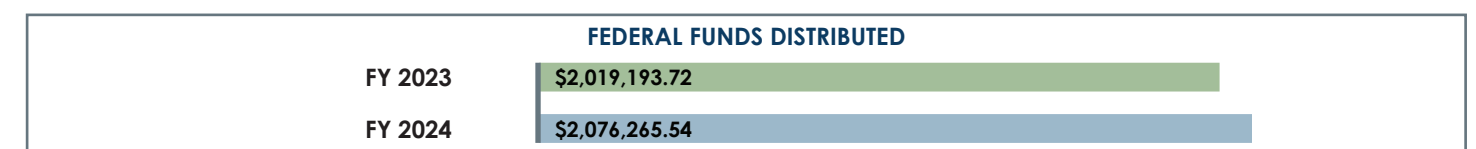
- The NDA received \$850,015 from USDA through a noncompetitive Farm-to-School (F2S) State Agency Formula grant in 2022. This grant has enabled the NDA to hire a full-time F2S coordinator to develop a Nevada F2S network and strategic plan. Additionally, this funding will be used for subawards to partnering agencies that want to do projects related to F2S and agriculture literacy in Nevada.



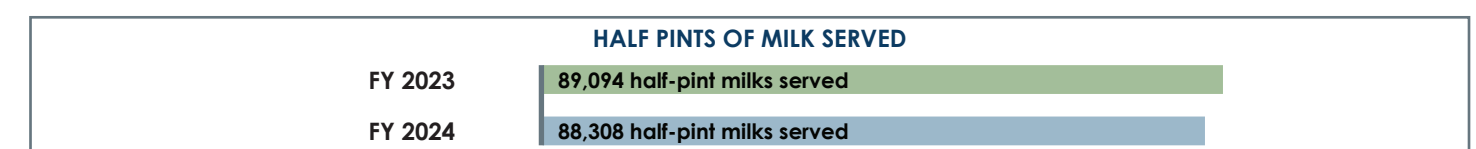
The **State Processing Program** works with commercial food processors to convert raw bulk USDA Foods into more convenient end products like applesauce or string cheese.



The **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)** increases the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in elementary schools, leading to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables in the cafeteria.

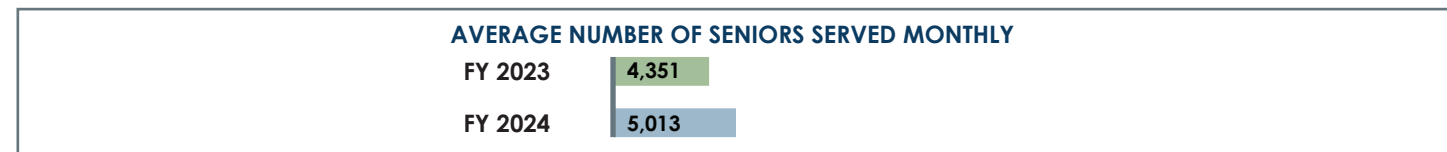


The **Special Milk** program provides milk to children who do not participate in other federal meal service programs such as in schools and childcare centers.

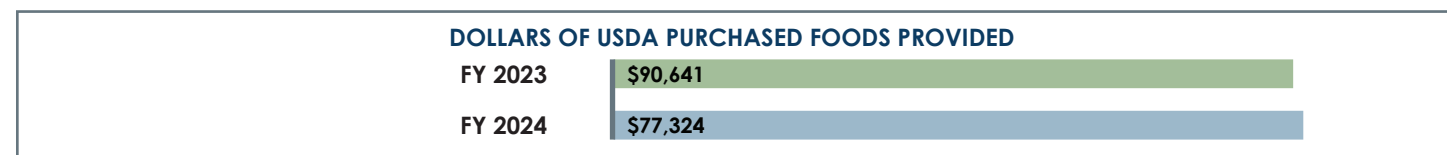


The Division of Food and Nutrition provides support to food-insecure seniors through the following programs:

The **Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program**, previously the Commodity Supplemental Food program as it is referred to by the USDA, offers monthly food packages for seniors 60 years of age and older with incomes at or below 130 percent of poverty levels. The NDA implements this program at the state level through partners throughout Nevada. To better communicate the program’s purpose, the NDA changed the name of the program at the state level. Food boxes are distributed through the Just One Project in Las Vegas, Food Bank of Northern Nevada in Reno and Friends in Service Helping in Elko.



The **Nutrition Services Incentive Program** offers USDA purchased foods as an alternative to cash in senior citizen centers throughout the state as part of the federal Older Americans Act.

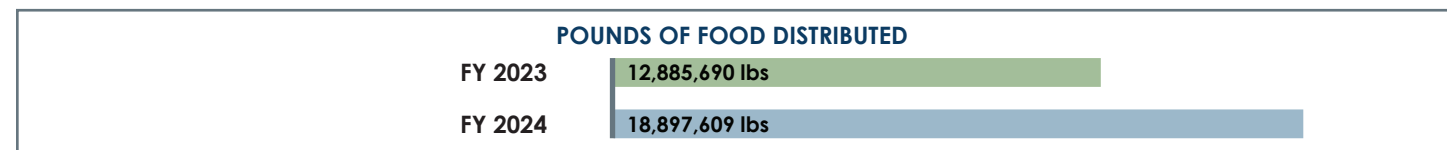


The **Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program** provides coupon books to low-income seniors to use as cash at Nevada farmers markets, increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. In 2023, Federal ARPA funding allowed for an additional 1,200 coupon booklets to be issued to senior participants statewide.

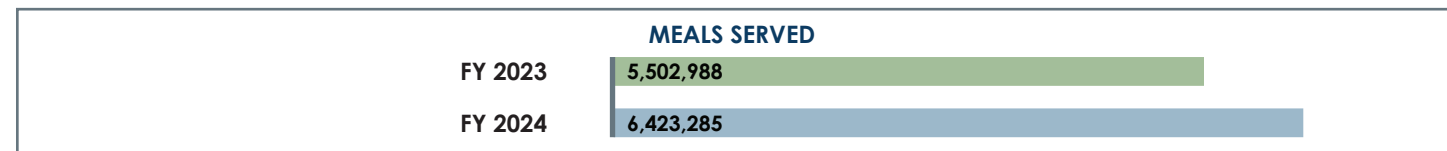
- May 2023 to Sept. 2023: Served more than 6,000 seniors and provided Nevada farmers with an additional \$131,370 in income.

The Division of Food and Nutrition offers support to community members facing food insecurity through the following programs:

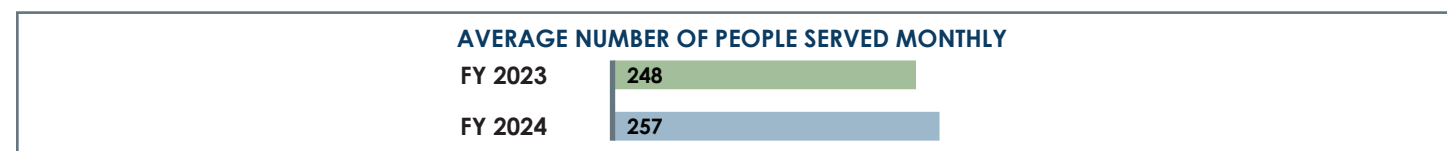
The **Emergency Food Assistance** program provides USDA Foods to food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens for distribution to low-income families.



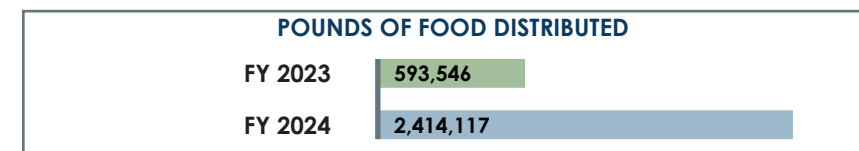
The **Child and Adult Care Food** program uses USDA funds to provide nutritious meals and snacks to children in daycare and afterschool programs as well as adults in daycare centers.



The **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations** delivers foods to low-income individuals in 10 different tribal communities, colonies and reservations in Nevada using USDA funds.



The **Home Feeds Nevada** program is a state supported food purchasing and distribution program that benefits local farmers, producers, and underserved populations in food-insecure communities. Food is purchased locally and distributed to those in need through the state’s two food banks and their community partners. It has been funded by \$2 million in State ARPA funds and \$4,150,990 from the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistant (LFPA) Grant.



STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- NRS 385.080
- NRS 387.0693
- NRS 387.0695
- NRS 387.070
- NRS 387.073
- NRS 387.075
- NRS 387.080
- NRS 387.090
- NRS 387.100
- NRS 387.105
- NRS 387.114
- NRS 387.1145
- NRS 387.1151
- NRS 387.1155
- NRS 387.116
- NRS 387.1165
- NRS 387.117
- NRS 387.1175
- NRS 561.485
- NRS 561.489
- NRS 561.495
- NAC 387

NEWLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

The **NDA Food Warehouse in southern Nevada**: In 2024, NDA utilized State ARPA funds to purchase a new warehouse in Las Vegas for the Division of Food and Nutrition. This new warehouse includes cold, frozen and dry storage, which allows NDA to house all food products that it distributes through USDA feeding and nutrition programs under one roof. The previous NDA warehouse was only dry storage, with the cold and frozen items being stored offsite under a lease. The new warehouse is at 7085 Placid Street and is 27,340 sq feet. Occupancy is slated for Spring of 2025.

The NDA awarded \$3 million in State ARPA funds to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) for the **Nevada Rural Food Hub** to improve infrastructure and increase food storage and distribution capacity for rural Nevada. The goal is to establish a food storage and distribution center in rural Nevada that can store and distribute up to 100,000 meals per month to communities facing food access barriers due to their proximity to the urban areas. The FBNN is under contract to purchase a 12,920 sq. foot warehouse/office building in Elko, Nev. located at 111 W. Front Street for \$1,650,000. The plan is to have dry, cold and frozen storage capacity under one roof.

The NDA received \$652,983 through the **USDA TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant** to expand The Emergency Food Assistant program’s reach within Nevada, focusing on rural and Tribal communities. The NDA will be releasing a request for applications for rural and Tribal communities to purchase equipment and supplies needed to expand and help operate their TEFAP program.

The NDA was allocated \$30,104,489 of **USDA Supply Chain Assistance** funds to distribute to School Food Authorities to assist school districts experiencing supply chain disruptions during school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. These funds were used exclusively for the purchase of domestic food products that are unprocessed or minimally processed.

The NDA reimbursed School Food Authorities \$1,469,598 through the **USDA Local Foods in Schools Grant** for local and regional food purchases. This program supported local regional farmers and producers while providing schools with another avenue to procure food. The products purchased included milk, produce and meat.

The **NDA Senior Nutrition and Wellness program** previously known as the **Commodity Supplemental Food Program**, received over \$400,000 in State ARPA funds for our community partners to operate the program to purchase and include additional food items in monthly food boxes such as fresh produce, frozen proteins and dairy. This funding ended June 30, 2024.

The **Nevada Community Food Access Grant (Phase I)** sought to increase food access in underserved communities throughout Nevada with emphasis on food distribution infrastructure enhancement. Through this grant, the NDA awarded \$500,000 to six community organizations. This grant ended June 30, 2024.

Through the **Nevada Community Food Access Grant (Phase II)** the NDA expanded funding awarding \$6 million to 14 projects aimed at improving food access and security throughout the state.



DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS

CONTACT



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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- 26 full-time
- 2 seasonal

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- NRS 581
- NRS 582
- NRS 590
- NAC 581
- NAC 582
- NAC 590

The NDA's **Division of Measurement Standards** ensures accuracy and consistency in all commercial transactions by regulating weight and volume, as well as the quality of motor fuel and lubricants for the protection of Nevada's residents and businesses.

The **Weights and Measures** program promotes fair trade based on accurate weight and volume, protecting the economic interests of Nevada consumers while also supporting an equitable marketplace for Nevada businesses.

Livestock scale inspections are an important part of the mission of the Weights and Measures program. However, the division relied on traditional methods of communication, which made rapid information exchange with ranches impossible during unforeseen events. Over the past two years, significant effort has gone into improving communication, especially through digital means, resulting in better interaction with ranches allowing for more timely and improved service to the industry.

NUMBER OF LICENSED DEVICES TESTED

FY 2023	33,803 devices tested
FY 2024	43,847 devices tested

The **Metrology** program maintains traceability of the State's primary weight and volume standards to the national standards. The Metrology program staff compare and calibrate secondary and field standards to these primary standards, ensuring consistency in the weights and volume standards used to confirm the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices across Nevada. The lab calibrates weights and volume test measures for NDA staff and industry.

The **Metrology Laboratory** is recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for traceability of measurement standards to the national standards of mass and volume. The lab is also accredited by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) (Lab Code 200934-0), demonstrating compliance to the management and technical requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard, meeting or exceeding all requirements including quality systems, calibration methods, measurement traceability and more.

NUMBER OF WEIGHTS AND VOLUME STANDARDS TESTED AND CALIBRATED

FY 2023	2,536
FY 2024	1,801

The **Petroleum Technology** program ensures fuel sold at retail facilities meets regulations and acts on consumer complaints, confirming compliance with quality standards.

The **Petroleum Technology Laboratories** test samples of motor vehicle fuels, aviation gasoline and jet fuel, lubricating and heating oils, and antifreeze collected in response to consumer complaints and at random on a regular basis from retailers across the state. Analysis is performed on the samples to confirm the product meets or exceeds performance and environmental quality standards adopted by the State Board of Agriculture.

PERCENT OF COMPLIANT OIL, FUEL AND ANTIFREEZE TESTS

FY 2023	3,264 of 3,375 of tests conducted were compliant	96.7%
FY 2024	2,964 of 3,114 of tests conducted were compliant	95.2%

AB29 FOR NRS CHAPTER 590

The NDA Division of Measurement Standards is carrying AB29 into the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature. This bill would update Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 590, to align with current practices in the petroleum industry.

The proposed updates specifically address section 590.160 to 590.330, which concerns the "Advertisement of Motor Vehicle Fuel and Petroleum Products." These regulations were originally enacted in 1951 and have been minorly updated since. As a result, these regulations are outdated and do not reflect the current practices of the industry. The proposed updates will address new fuels, new modes of advertising, and variable pricing based on loyalty programs or method of payment.





DIVISION OF PLANT HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE

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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

- 45 full-time
- 9 seasonal
- 7 intermittent

The NDA's Division of Plant Health and Compliance protects Nevada agriculture, the public and environment through services that include plant and range health, pest identification and mitigation, noxious weeds, export inspection, pesticide compliance, drought response and farm worker and food safety programs. The division operates under cooperative programs with the USDA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and state, county and city government.

The Division of Plant Health and Compliance promotes viable crop production through the following programs:

The **Export Certification** program assists Nevada farmers and exporters by providing mandatory inspection and certification for plants and plant products exported out of the state. Inspections help prevent the spread of invasive pests and diseases from one part of the world to another. In 2024, Nevada potatoes were exported out of country for the first time and account for the increase in the table below.

NUMBER OF EXPORT AND PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES ISSUED	
FY 2023	400
FY 2024	655

AGRICULTURE PRODUCT POUNDS APPLIED FOR EXPORT	
FY 2023	66,014,584
FY 2024	98,961,945

The **Produce Safety Education and Compliance** program works to facilitate federal compliance to the **Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)**, which is aimed at mitigating contamination when growing and handling crops commonly consumed raw. This program provides education, technical assistance and state inspection services to farms and employees to mitigate potential contamination commonly attributed to worker sanitation, water sources and animal intrusion.

- FY 2023: 22 trainings given on various food safety topics to 146 attendees
- FY 2024: 14 trainings given on various food safety topics to 41 attendees

The **Hemp** program ensures hemp growers, seed producers and handlers (processors of raw hemp products) follow state and federal registration and testing requirements to prevent psychoactive materials from entering the stream of commerce. This requires the sampling and testing of all hemp crops produced in Nevada for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive cannabinoid associated with marijuana, as hemp is legally defined by its low THC content.

	HEMP CERTIFICATES				
	Growers	Producers	Handlers	Acres	Indoor (Sq. Ft.)
CY 2023	13	0	19	207	258,123
CY 2024	9	1	15	144.7	220,403

The **Producer and Produce Vendor Certification** program performs site inspections to verify the quantity and variety of crops grown in the state. Certificates are tracked through a farmer registration system to provide traceability and consumer protection and to capture Nevada crop production data.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED FOR PRODUCTION AND SALE OF PRODUCE	
FY 2023	467
FY 2024	387

The **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program** enhances the competitiveness of Nevada's specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, honey, horticulture and nursery crops) through education, research and promotional projects. The NDA conducts an annual competitive application process to award USDA sponsored grant funds to candidates who will contribute to the success of the specialty crop industry.

- In FY 2023, \$267,238 was awarded to three projects
- In FY 2024, \$268,947.35 was awarded to three projects

The Division of Plant Health and Compliance protects plant health by monitoring for disease and invasive species through the following programs:

The **Noxious Weeds** program collaborates with federal, state and local government agencies, in addition to various weed mitigation entities to be proactive in the prevention, control and management of invasive weed species. This collaborative effort includes targeting invasive weeds on public and private property in Nevada for the protection of Nevada lands, native plants, fire mitigation, wildlife habitat, property values, agricultural products and water sources.

FY 2023:

- 722 EDDMaps reports
- 1,532 acres surveyed
- 349 outreach and compliance actions

FY 2024:

- 832 EDDMaps reports
- 1,721 acres surveyed
- 223 outreach and compliance actions

The **Nursery** program monitors, intercepts and prevents the spread of pests and disease on plant nursery stock, ensuring pest-free, disease-free and healthy plant material for sale to the public.

INSPECTIONS OF NURSERY STOCK PERFORMED AND VIOLATIONS	
FY 2023	448 inspections resulting in 51 violations
FY 2024	350 inspections resulting in 54 violations

The **Entomology** program prevents the entry and spread of harmful pests through pest identification, field surveys and enforcing applicable state quarantines and regulations. To further pest monitoring, rapid response and the implementation of effective treatment options, staff coordinate with federal partners, industry and the public.

The **Entomology Laboratory** offers the following services:

- Identification and surveying for native and exotic invertebrate pests
- Identification of pests and recommended treatment options for industry and the public

The **Plant Pathology** program works with other states and the USDA to identify and prevent potential plant disease threats from coming into Nevada. This includes inspecting transport trucks and airline shipments from other countries. The **Plant Pathology Laboratory** is nationally accredited and provides diagnostic and testing services to the state and federal plant health programs and statewide clientele. Services include identification of plant disease and recommended treatment options for industry and the public.

PLANT PATHOLOGY LAB TESTS	
FY 2023	4,126 samples were processed
FY 2024	3,967 samples were processed

The **Seed Certification** program provides regulatory support to seed growers and other business entities by offering seed certification services, conducting phytosanitary inspection of crops destined for export and enforcing state and federal seed laws intended to protect the interests of Nevada's seed industry. Through this program, the **Seed Laboratory** provides testing services for seed identity, viability, purity and seed-borne diseases.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

- NAC 453a
- NAC 552
- NAC 554
- NAC 555
- NAC 556
- NAC 557
- NAC 576
- NAC 583
- NAC 586
- NAC 587
- NAC 588
- NRS 453a
- NRS 552
- NRS 554
- NRS 555
- NRS 556
- NRS 557
- NRS 576
- NRS 583
- NRS 586
- NRS 587
- NRS 588

The Division of Plant Health and Compliance protects the environment through the following programs:

The **Chemistry Laboratory** provides the following services to industry:

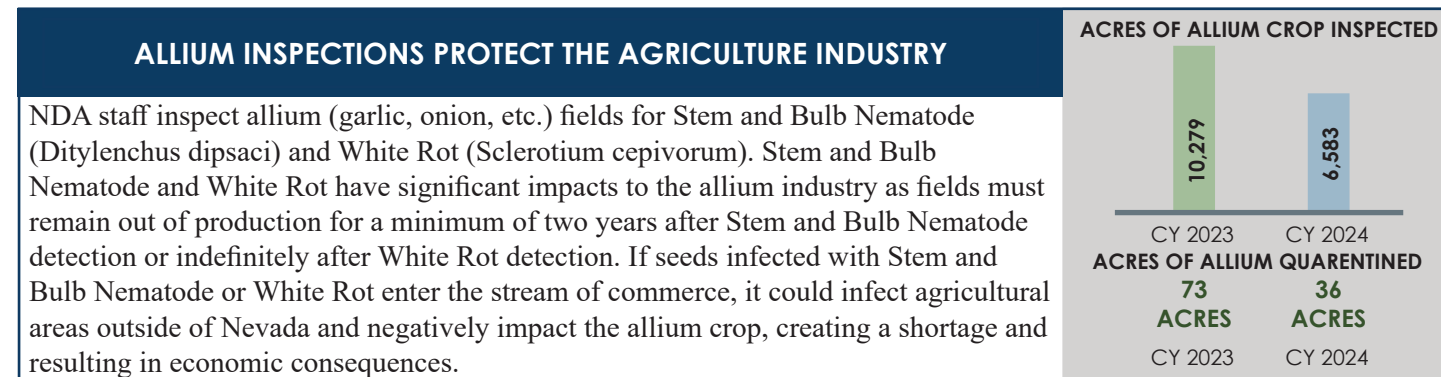
- Registration and analytical verification of fertilizer and pesticide products ensuring labeling guidelines and EPA standards are met.
- Regulatory testing of THC content in hemp.
- Testing verification for marijuana products that fail third party pesticide residue analysis testing.

The **Environmental Services** program maintains comprehensive pesticide enforcement, surveillance and laboratory analysis to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of pesticides. Through this program, the NDA offers pesticide and pesticide container recycling to keep chemicals out of Nevada waterways.



The **Pest Control** program licenses and monitors all pest control companies and individuals statewide for compliance with state and federal. The program promotes the safe application of pesticides by ensuring applicator competency through license examinations, continuing education courses and public outreach.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| FY 2023: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,314 examinations were administered • 2,298 Licenses were issued to pest control technicians • 569 Licenses were issued to pest control businesses | FY 2024: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,454 examinations were administered • 2,332 Licenses were issued to pest control technicians • 536 Licenses were issued to pest control businesses |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|



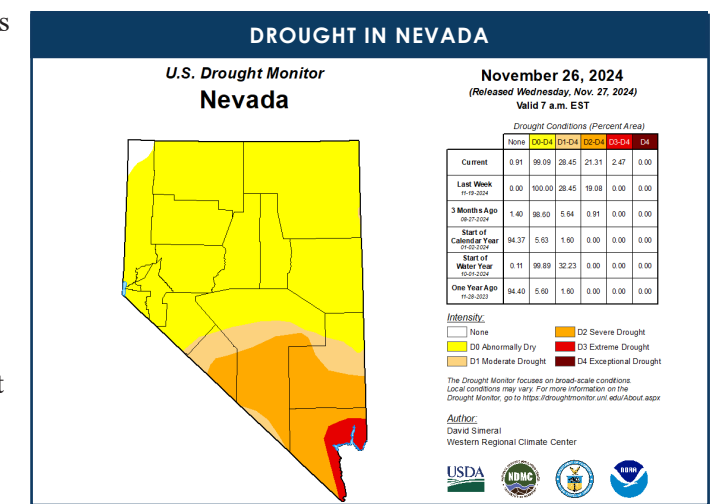
NEWLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

The NDA has established a **Foundation Seed Program** to provide free quality native seeds to growers to cultivate for use in future restoration efforts. The goal of this program is to provide source-verified seeds that are in high demand across different markets and to help growers transition or diversify cultivation by providing free native seed. As part of the **Nevada Native Seed Partnership**, the NDA works to ensure the right native seeds are used in restoration efforts. The Foundation Seed Program strengthens the role in seed strategy by increasing the availability of native seed in Nevada. The introductory round of applications for the Foundation Seed Program was received in Fall 2022, and initial plantings occurred in Spring 2023. Two applicants were awarded seed to plant 11 acres with four species of locally adapted seed important for future restoration efforts:

- Great Basin Wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*)
- Yellow Beeplant (*Cleome lutea*)
- Sulphur Flower Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
- Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*)

The **Drought** program provides proactive, long-term strategies that will make Nevada’s agricultural and ranching resources more resilient to the impacts of prolonged drought. The intent is to promote water conservation, technology and practices to achieve drought resilience that is consistent and sustainable in Nevada for generations to come.

Drought designations have been issued for every county in Nevada for the last two years. In addition to disaster assistance funding available through the USDA, the NDA Drought program helps farmers and ranchers connect with the appropriate funding and resources, and plan for future drought impacts and needs.



MERGING BUDGET ACCOUNTS

To ensure the long-term financial stability and operational efficiency of the Division of Plant Health and Compliance, the NDA will be pursuing the merger of budget accounts 4545 (Agriculture Registrations/Enforcement) and 4552 (Pest, Plant Disease, Noxious Weed Control) during the 2025 Legislative Session. This change will address challenges in the current budget structure and allow for greater flexibility, resource allocation and program implementation.

The current program structure operates under three budgets: 4545, 4552 and 4540 that include, fees, grant funds and general funds. Staff often participate in tasks funded by both fees and grants. This separation creates administrative challenges, limiting the NDA’s ability to optimize staffing assignments and respond efficiently to emerging issues that require immediate attention such as Mormon cricket infestations, bio-control releases, produce safety inspections and noxious weed control.

Benefits of merging budget accounts

- Increased operational efficiency:
- Merging the accounts would create a more balanced distribution of personnel costs between fee-based and grant-funded activities, providing greater fiscal stability.
 - Aligning these budget accounts would streamline the provision of NDA services by enabling staff to offer a wider range of services during site visits, particularly in regions with specific production types.
- Reduce dependence on seasonal staff:
- This would reduce travel expenses, optimize staff time and minimize disruption to agriculture businesses. The merger would allow for greater flexibility in allocating existing staff to grant-funded projects, minimizing the need to hire and train seasonal personnel, which has historically posed challenges.
 - Leveraging existing staff expertise ensures program continuity and reduces recruitment costs.
- Improved grant management:
- Consolidating the budgets would streamline the acceptance and execution of grants, particularly those providing partial funding for inspections, sub-grantee oversight and surveys.

The NDA continues to work with several federal partners to secure grant funding for program implementation, personnel costs and the management of sub-awards. The NDA has received these awards for the last ten years, and in some cases twenty years, covering various positions. Federal funding for positions comes from the USDA in three forms: first, through a Cooperative Agreement Project for Maintenance and Administration of Food Safety Modernization Act; second, through Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine, as well as the Plant Protection Act; and finally through the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry awards.

As part of the division’s goal in finding long-term solvency in the budget, the division is proposing increasing the Pesticide Registration fee from \$125 to \$281. This fee is paid by pesticide companies that want to register their products in Nevada. This fee is crucial for funding the Environmental Services and Pest Control programs, which are responsible for ensuring the safe and responsible use of pesticides within the state. The current fee was set in 2013 and does not reflect the actual cost of managing the program. Since 2013, the costs of personnel and equipment have increased significantly. The fee increase will not only bring the division to up to present day operational costs, but will ensure the program maintains the required reserves to cover unexpected expenses like new pest threats and equipment.



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of Agriculture