

December 6, 2024, Board Report

Division of Plant Health and Compliance



Nevada
Department
of Agriculture

Division Overview

- The Division is working on three changes to several sections of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) under department jurisdiction. NAC 586 involves increasing the annual registration fee for each pesticide from \$125 to \$281. NAC 557 will be updating the definition to include “Total” tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), it also outlines testing procedures for hemp, requiring compliance with federal standards. NAC 555 will include changes to training requirements for pesticide applicants.

Partnership activities

- The department continues to work with its federal and state partners related to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects and activities, as well as proactively working under Shared Stewardship. Partners include Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), United States Forest Service (USFS), University of Reno, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- The Sagebrush Ecosystem Program convened the Statewide Technical Team (STT) to discuss annual triggers and set priority areas where the state can complete adaptive management responses in the most economically and ecologically responsible way possible. The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) representative has taken the lead role convening the STT by creating and compiling data that will enhance the responsiveness of the group.

Program Updates

Plant Pathology

The Pathology team completed Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 exotic pathogen surveys funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Protection Act Program, targeting 20 high risk pathogens. During the survey, the Pathology team collected 1800 samples which are currently under analysis in the pathology and nematology laboratories. So far, two fungal organisms associated with California pepper tree (*Schinus molle* L.) have been detected in Las Vegas. The organisms were tentatively identified as *Inonotus rickii* and *Paecilomyces maximus*.

Allium Quarantine Inspections and Seed Certification

All garlic fields (totaling over 800 acres) registered in the 2024 growing season have been inspected for white rot disease. Two fields (Olam West Coast Topaz, NV Field # Park 645 and Christopher Ranch Yerington, NV Field # Wass 4) were found to be infected with the disease and have been placed under quarantine per NAC 554.950. This program is to protect the Allium Industry from white rot diseases.

- A total of 11 garlic fields were registered for seed production, from which garlic bulb samples were collected for stem and bulb nematode analysis. All samples (267 bags)

were tested negative for the steam and bulb nematode. This testing is to ensure that seed garlic crops are free from this nematode.

- Seed program staff completed field inspections for all seed crops registered for seed certification and export. A total of 2,854 acres of 6 crop kinds were inspected without positive finding of restricted disease occurrence. Seed potato certification is pending on final winter grow out testing.

Crop	Acres
Alfalfa	1,375.00
Barley	300.00
Triticale	255.00
Wheat	54.00
Rapeseed - Canola	524.00
Potato	104.60
Alfalfa – for Phytosanitary	242.00
Total	2854.60

Native Seed

The Seed Program was awarded a \$320,487.00 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/Burned Area Rehabilitation (BIL-BAR) grant administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This 3-year grant will enhance the certification of wildland sourced native seed and increase native seed production in the Great Basin for restoration purposes.

- The Seed Program presented current progress in native seed projects to members of the U.S. Department of Interior’s Interagency Burned Areas Emergency Response (IBAER) team on September 19th. The team toured the newly equipped foundation seed lab and general analytical seed lab. The meeting and tour were well received with positive feedback from the members.
- Native seed source identification had a total of 111 applications for the 2024 season that have been received and reviewed.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

- Three new credit projects were introduced to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) in January of 2023. These projects will provide restoration and sage-grouse management on private land to over 15,000 acres and are expected to produce over 4,000 credits created by new and existing credit projects for the SETT. Many large projects are in the final stages on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which means that demand will be increasing in the coming year.
- Three individual ranches were visited this summer to enhance relationships with private landowners that are enrolled in the SETT, as well as monitor the sites and provide input on management actions.

Chemistry

Two chemistry staff attended both the 2024 North American Chemical Residue Workshop, and an EPA sponsored training workshop.

- Chemistry Laboratory Information System (LIMS) is live after nearly two years planning and testing. The chemistry staff is monitoring the program running process.

Samples Analyzed	FY24	FY25
Ground / Surface Water (Pesticide Residue Monitor Program)	24	85
Hemp (Percentage THC analysis)	33	24
Pesticide Formulation / Use Dilution	78	35
Pesticide Residue (Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement)	18	21

Crops

Specialty Crop Block Grant

- NDA was awarded \$268,947.35 by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program for three projects to investigate and enhance the viability of specialty crops in Nevada.

USDA Country of Origin Labeling

Under the USDA Country of Origin Labeling Cooperative Agreement, NDA inspectors have completed a total of 40 inspections, including two follow-up inspections to address previous noncompliance issues found during inspections in previous years.

Export/Shipping Point

- As September 30, 2024, 112 Federal and State Phytosanitary certifications were issued in SFY25 allowing for the export of 25,730,999 pounds of varying commodities including hay, coffee, mushroom spawn, onions, potatoes, sage, and various spices. 106 State and Federal Phytosanitary certificates totaling 9,399,728 pounds were issued during the same time in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 24.
- Other items certified for export that are not measured by weight, but by count totaled 37,464 and included nursery stock and hay during SFY24
- The onion shipping point inspection season began on August 27, 2024, and has seen an increase in onion exports of 158,232 pounds as compared to the same time last year.

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of onions exported 4th Quarter FY 2024

Month	SFY2024 International Exports (lbs)	SFY2025 International Exports (lbs)
July	0	0
August	0	173,656
September	769,060	622,886
October	765,700	
November	962,470	

December	697,200	
January	631,750	
February	308,400	
March	204,200	
April	379,340	

Phytosanitary Certificate Inspections in FY24 year to date saw an increase from FY23, which has continued into SFY25 as shown in the table below.

Month	FY24	FY25
July	22	33
August	30	36
September	51	43
October	66	
November	65	
December	48	
January	57	
February	83	
March	89	
April	124	
May	126	
June	35	

**FY25 Data available through October 1, 2024*

Hemp

- In 2024 the NDA conducted a total of 32 hemp sample inspections and 3 site compliance inspections. The 2024 hemp inspection season so far has yielded 2 hemp samples, of which 0.0% of the samples exceeded the acceptable THC threshold. As of October 30, 2024, the NDA has conducted a total of 6 hemp sampling inspections, 3 post planting inspections, and 1 disposal inspection. The NDA has begun conducting post planting inspections to aid growers in mapping lots and sublots for more accurate Farm Service Agency (FSA) reporting.
- The NDA has coordinated with the USDA and identified that the definition of “Acceptable hemp THC level” in NAC 557.011 is not compliant with the USDAs definition in 7 CFR 990.1. The rule changing process has been initiated to redefine the Acceptable hemp THC level to follow USDA requirements.

Year over year Samples Tested, Non-Compliant Samples, and Disposals

Statistics for Hemp Samples Tested, Non-Compliance & Disposals	CY2023	CY2024
Total Samples Collected	42	26
Non-Compliant Samples	7	1
Approved Crop Disposals	5	1
Approved Crop Remediation	6	0

Noxious Weeds

- Fall follow up meetings took place with all Nevada Early Detection Rapid Response (EDDR) regional groups. These meetings will help prioritize rapid response efforts moving into the 2025 calendar year.
- Coordination with the Dayton Valley Conservation District to implement the district's EDDR subgrant activities. Regulatory letters were sent to properties that have not responded to the district's initial outreach.
- The team has participated in 15 outreach and education events including the annual Desert Green event in southern Nevada.
- The EDDR initiative has received 493 new reports from public and private partners during FY25, a significant increase over previous years. So far in FY25, NDA inspectors have verified 499 submitted reports. Efforts will begin in Spring 2025 to certify public partners as EDDR verifiers to increase capacity.
- Biological control efforts of Russian Knapweed continue using the agent *Jaapiella ivannikovi*. NDA staff have conducted monitoring surveys at 20 sites, released the agent at 32 sites, and have successfully collected the agent from 1 site in FY25.

NDOT

- NDA and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) work cooperatively to ensure that weed mitigation plans submitted by NDOT contractors are robust and are followed during infrastructure projects and to mitigate the potential establishment and spread of noxious weed species. The NDA also provides education and training to NDOT maintenance staff in weed control, pesticide use and safety. As part of this cooperation, NDA sent a letter to NDOT leadership in October 2024 to inform them of an infestation of the noxious weed Scotch thistle along I-80 rights-of-way in NDOT District III and requested cooperation in developing a weed management plan for this area.

NDOT Construction Activities	
Plans Reviewed	18
Non-Compliant Samples	16
Approved Crop Disposals	37

Weed Free Certification

The NDA Noxious Weed Free Certification Program allows producers to certify forage, mulch, or gravel materials as free of noxious weeds. Nevada's weed free forage, mulch, and gravel certifications comply with the national standards set by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA).

Certified Weed Free Activities	
Weed Free Certificates Issued	40
Weed Free Gravel Inspections	28
Weed Free Forage Inspections	24
Weed Free Mulch Inspections	2

Entomology

Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Program

In 2024, Mormon crickets were reported from multiple counties including Washoe, Pershing, Churchill, Lander, Eureka, White Pine, Humboldt and Elko. A total of 1,990 sites were surveyed. Ground treatments were done at 375 sites with 2,067 pounds of carbaryl bait. Aerial treatments protected approximately 220,000 acres of BLM and private land. Entomology staff responded to over 900 reports (phone, email, text) of crickets and grasshoppers.

- NDA staff developed a new online reporting form for public submissions of cricket and grasshopper infestations and is available on the NDA website.
- A postseason meeting was held in October for the Mormon Cricket Program in Winnemucca with 23 attendees. Mormon cricket program updates were sent to 193 recipients.
- The State Entomologist presented two lectures at Desert Green and held two Invasive Species Workshops, and attended the executive meeting of the National Grasshopper Management Board serving as Vice Chair
- The program's Laboratory Information Management System has been fully implemented.

2024 Season Summary	Total
Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops	1990
Palm Weevil Commodities	1
Palm pest survey	1
Asian Defoliator Surveys	1
Khapra Beetle Surveys	1
CAPS Infrastructure	1
CAPS Exotic Wood Borer	1
CAPS Gypsy Moth	1
CAPS Pine Shoot Beetle	1
CAPS Imported Fire Ant	1
Traps placed/surveyed	2670
Identification Specimens	136

Identification Emails	40
Identifications Text	10
Identification Phone	2
Education	100
Treatments (since 1/2024)	381
Japanese Beetle Survey	1
European Corn Borer survey	0
State quarantine survey	0
Survey Identifications	3000
Collection processing	150
Honey Bee Surveys	5
General collection/collecting	5

Licensing/Enforcement

- NDA staff continues to work with the Legislative Counsel Bureau on R127-23 which enables individuals to be temporarily credentialed to apply pesticides under the supervision of a licensed applicator prior to passing license examinations. This effort was prompted by Senate Bill 159 which was adopted on July 1, 2023.
- NDA has completed a Small Business Impact Statement and will be holding workshops to gain industry input regarding R186-24, which revises NAC 586.011 which would increase the annual registration fee for pesticides from \$125 to \$281.

Wood Destroying Pest Inspection Report (WDPIR) Fees

- NDA will no longer be collecting fees for WPDIR forms in an effort to reduce costs to industry while gaining efficiencies in regulatory oversight and reporting. NDA is currently investigating options to provide an online reporting platform using existing software licenses.

Pest Control Inspections

- NDA inspectors conduct inspections of pesticide applications with licensed pest control businesses, agricultural producers, pesticide manufacturers, and dealers to ensure safe and responsible pesticide use throughout the supply chain. Inspectors conduct pesticide misuse investigations in response to public complaints, providing investigative reports backed by analysis from NDA's Chemistry laboratory.

June 1, 2024 - November 1, 2024		
Type of Inspection	No. of Inspections	Non-Compliance Issues
Agricultural Use	2	1
Nonagricultural Use	12	3
Producing Establishment	5	0

Marketplace (pesticide registrations)	13	0
Applicator Records	12	4
RUP Dealer Records	4	1
Investigations	9	4

Ground & Surface Water Monitoring

- NDA and USGS develop and maintain a network to monitor the occurrence of pesticides in Nevada water resources. This network serves as an early warning system for potential effects of pesticide applications and other activities on aquatic resources in Nevada and inform future regulatory efforts.