

December 8, 2021 Board Report

Plant Industry Division



Program Updates

- Entomology
 - Staff completed 5 outreach campaigns, with approximately 1,000 active participants, to increase awareness of invasive species and their impact to Nevada lands. In addition, a live video reel ran at the Reno airport for the month of November depicting invasive species of particular concern to Nevada lands.
 - One gypsy moth was detected in an Incline Village trap and the genetic analysis showed the specimen to be the North American (eastern US) variety. This species is of particular concern to pines, oaks, maples and aspen trees. The data was reported to USDA and plans are in progress for a delimitation survey in Spring 2022. All other invasive species surveys were negative.
 - Red Imported Fire Ants were detected at a park in Henderson, Nevada and staff are currently working on executing a delineating survey. The origin of the infestation is believed to be Texas. These are an invasive and public safety pest that the NDA surveys for on an annual basis.
 - Entomology survey work from the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 21 compared to the first quarter of FY22

Activity	FY21 Quarter 1	FY 22 Quarter 1
Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops	48	100
Palm Weevil Commodities	1	1
Palm pest survey	1	1
Asian Defoliator Surveys	1	1
Khapra Beetle Surveys	1	1
CAPS Infrastructure	0	0
CAPS Exotic Wood Borer	1	1
CAPS Gypsy Moth	1	1
CAPS Pine Shoot Beetle	1	1
CAPS Imported Fire Ant	1	1
Traps placed/surveyed	1214	3161
Identification Specimens	14	62
Identification Emails	84	35
Identifications Text	27	13
Identification Phone	14	0
Education	0	715
Treatments	0	8
Japanese Beetle Survey	2	1
Survey Identifications	15284	76059
Collection processing	3219	12913

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Honeybee Surveys	16	17
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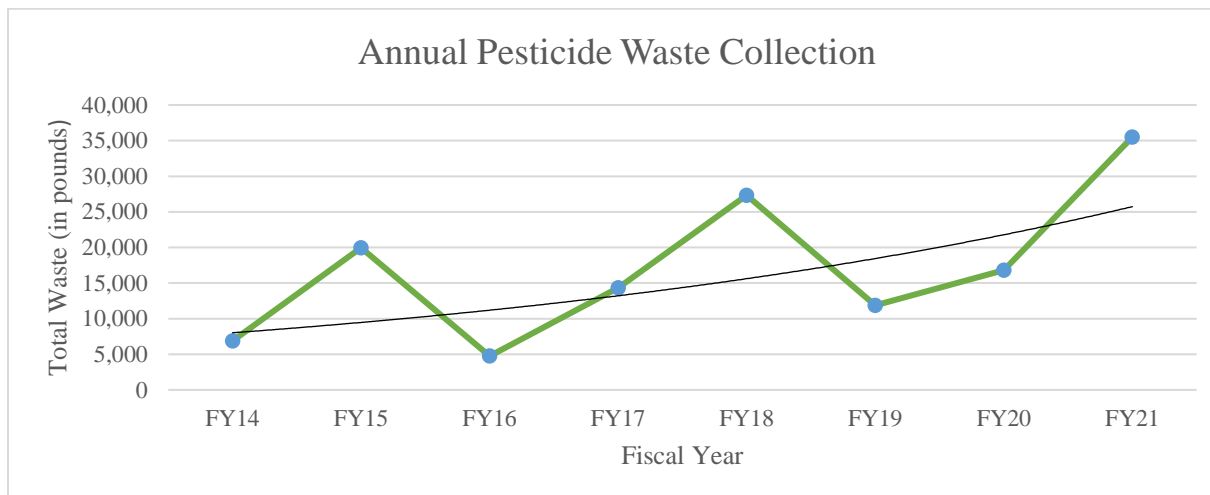
- Plant Pathology
 - The plant pathology lab has established a new RNA-based test for Hop latent viroid. This viroid (much simpler organism than a virus) has been found to be a major pathogen that causes abnormal growth in hemp and cannabis.
 - The plant pathology lab has discovered that most of the abnormal hemp growth (leaf curling, stunting, twisting, etc.) in Nevada is caused by beet curly top virus (BCTV). In some fields, dual infections by BCTV and phytoplasma occurs. This finding explains the root cause of one of the most destructive hemp diseases in Nevada and other western states.
- Seed Program
 - Three varieties of seed potatoes are undergoing winter-grow out testing to be evaluated for certification. A total of 3,080 tubers have been collected and will be planted in the greenhouse to monitor and test for latent viruses.
 - A public workshop was held on October 26, 2021 for proposed amendments to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 587 to increase fees related to seed potato. There was no public opposition to the proposed changes.
 - The Seed Program is coordinating with the Nevada Native Seed Partnership (NNSP) to develop a NNSP website that will feature useful resources for wildland seed production and other activities for native seed in Nevada. The website is projected to go live by the end of 2021 and will provide useful resources for producers to enter this market.
 - Since September, the Seed Program has accepted and completed inspections on 27 separate seed collection sites for source identified certification. This program is still relatively new and demonstrates the demand and growing interest for wildland seed collection. In total, the NDA has issued source identified designation on 76 individual collection sites throughout Nevada in FY22. Throughout 2021, the NDA has issued 1,131 yellow tags, demonstrating seed compliance to NAC 587 for source identified seed lots, accounting for a yearly sum of 52,872.65 lbs. of wildland collected seed.
- Pesticide Compliance Program
 - Revisions to NAC
 - The U.S. EPA published final revisions to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule (40 CFR Part 171). The NDA recently made changes to Chapter 555 and 586 of the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) to meet the requirements for the new rule. A workshop was held on September 22, 2021 regarding NAC 555 and 587 to reflect the NRS and CFR. There was no opposition to the proposed changes.
 - Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) certification and license exams are being offered in person at the Sparks, Elko, and Las Vegas NDA offices. Testers are required to follow all COVID protocols when in the NDA offices.

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- The NDA pesticide waste collection program has continued to experience annual increases as illustrated in the graph below.



- Noxious Weeds
 - Crimson fountain grass letter – The NDA nursery inspectors noticed that crimson fountain grass, *Pennisetum setaceum* (a category A Nevada noxious species), was being sold in Nevada nurseries. A notice letter was sent to inform Nevada nurseries that *P. setaceum* is a noxious weed in Nevada and that the sale and distribution of this species is prohibited. Industry contacts reached out to the Noxious Weed Program for clarification if *Pennisetum x advena* ‘Rubrum’ is prohibited. The NDA has no evidence of *P. x advena* ‘Rubrum’ escaping cultivation and the species is not known to self-pollinate. The decision was made to prohibit the sale and distribution of *P. setaceum* and allow nurseries to sell and distribute *P. x advena* ‘Rubrum’. A guide will be created to help inspectors distinguish between the two species.
 - Purple Loosestrife - Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria* (a category A Nevada noxious species), is emerging in aquatic and riparian sites in the Reno/Sparks area and along the Truckee River. Notifications of the species initiated follow up of surveys of sites with known infestations. The NDA noxious weed team met with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to collaborate on a proposal to address the species. Other possible partners include Washoe County Parks and Open Space.
 - Biocontrol releases were performed at 12 sites as a noxious weeds mitigation strategy, which will be monitored for establishment in order to perform future releases to other infestation sites.
- Crops
 - Nursery
 - There are currently 948 licensed nurseries, which is consistent to FY 2021 program licensure.

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- Hemp
 - The NDA adopted LCB file R011-21, regulation amendments to NAC 557 on October 25, 2021 that allow for the Nevada hemp program to proceed per USDA requirements.
 - The NDA received written approval from USDA to accept state criminal history reports rather than FBI criminal history reports. Applicants can apply for a criminal history report directly from their local Department of Public Safety (DPS), which is more streamlined than the FBI background check process.
 - There were 115 certified producers in 2020 and 61 certified producers in 2021. The table below reflects hemp samples collected and tested for federal compliance by the NDA, samples that tested above compliance, and approved crop disposals of non-compliant crops between January 1, 2019 and November 15, 2021.

State of Nevada Statistics	Samples
2019 Total Samples Collected	430
2019 Non-Compliant Samples	56 or 13.02%
2019 Approved Crop Disposals	25
2020 Total Samples Collected	305
2020 Non-Compliant Samples	24 or 7.9%
2020 Approved Crop Disposals	13
2021 Total Samples Collected	114
2021 Non-Compliant Samples	16 or 15.0%
2021 Approved Crop Disposals	8
2021 Approved Crop Remediation	0

- Specialty Crop
 - The NDA received funding through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant for a project to train 2 inspectors for additional shipping point and terminal marketplace inspections. The NDA will send inspectors to Idaho in January 2022 to receive training for potato shipping point inspections. Inspectors will then receive terminal marketing training during Winter or Spring 2022. These trainings will expand state services and enhance market opportunities.
 - The NDA received an additional \$364,070.07 in grant funding from USDA as part of the [HR 133 stimulus](#) and intends to issue a request for applications in late December 2021. Priority for these funds will be placed on specialty crop projects that aim to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.
- Shipping Point

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- The onion shipping season started late August 2021 and a significant increase in early season volume was experienced compared to 2020. Annual inspected pounds shipped outside of the USA can be seen in the table below.
- In addition to increased pounds shipped, the number of shipping point certificates have increased 34% from August 2021 through October 2021, with 244 certificates through the first part FY22 compared to 203 certificates in FY21.

Month	FY19 Certs	Pounds Shipped Outside USA	FY20 Certs	Pounds Shipped Outside USA	FY21 Certs	Pounds Shipped Outside USA	FY22 Certs	Pounds Shipped Outside USA
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug	14	175,420	26	328,560	21	161,720	38	798,914
Sept	99	1,372,850	157	1,952,617	90	1,170,830	119	1,568,985
Oct	83	1,047,320	110	1,748,868	92	1,204,861	87	908,155
Nov	76	975,972	91	1,393,439	98	1,350,489		
Dec	74	977,455	110	1,629,981	112	1,209,000		
Jan	73	838,185	105	1,346,628	117	1,465,458		
Feb	70	768,860	77	816,940	72	1,160,611		
Mar	45	504,865	42	543,995	38	1,020,210		
Apr	0	0	17	124,440	2	80,000		

**FY 2022 data is through October 31 2021*

- The NDA conducted joint Produce Safety Rule inspections with FDA during September 2021. The joint inspections provided the opportunity for NDA staff to receive training and calibrate inspection practices with federal inspectors. This is part of a state and national objective to establish consistency among inspections and in the identification of potential food safety contamination entry points at diverse operations.