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SCRIPT FOR AEU-PLANT PRESENTATION

Slide 1— “This morning (afternoon) I want to spend a few minutes talking about Agriculture and Agriculture law enforcement in Nevada.”

**Slide 2— Unbeknownst to many, we have a viable agriculture industry here in Nevada, and it's not just cattle and sheep....
“People grow things here”**

Slide 3— Nevada Department of Agriculture was created by statute to promote, protect and enhance the agriculture and livestock industries in Nevada. It is divided into 5 main divisions.

**Slide 4— During the 2001 legislative session, AB 560 amended NRS 289.290 in an attempt to stop Nevada from being a dumping ground for substandard, diseased, or infested nursery stocks, crops, livestock, and other agriculture products and commodities.
This amendment... (read slide).**

**Slide 5— The action by the 2001 legislature was very timely in retrospect, since the attacks of 9-11, a few months later, brought forth whole new thinking as to America's, and Nevada's, vulnerability.
The new Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge has since declared, “agriculture and the nations food supply are the no. 1 priority for homeland security.**

Slide 6— (AEU activities) Self Explanatory.

Slide 7— (Plant Quarantines) The Nevada State Board of Agriculture recently adopted all Federal quarantines as State quarantines. These, in addition to our own state quarantines, require the AEO's to enforce some 30 quarantine actions.

Slide 8— (Invasive Species) Self Explanatory. Examples are: Tall Whitetop on the Truckee and Carson rivers. Cheat grass that came from Russia and causes the tremendous wildfire cycles we now experience. Imported Fire Ants and Africanized Honey Bees.

Slide 9— (impact of invasive species). In Texas, the impact of IFA is estimated at \$526 million per year. That amounts to \$150 per household.

Tamarask (Salt Cedar) robs all natural desert plants of water and takes over the natural landscape.

Slide 10— Imported Fire Ants are prevalent in the southern states and are found in some counties in Calif. And in isolated colonies in Clark Co., Nevada. They swarm, sting and have caused the death to persons allergic to their sting. In some areas, they render parks and playing fields unusable. Nevada Department of Agriculture is working with local entities to control and eradicate IFA in southern Nevada.

Slide 11— (Other pests) Japanese Beetles are highly destructive and costly to control. They attack the foliage, flowers, and fruit of over 300 ornamental and agricultural plants and crops. The cost of control in Calif. is estimated at \$6 million per year, and in Oregon at \$20 million, and in Las Vegas where there are huge investments in ornamental horticulture, \$300 thousand is spent per year in control.

Potato Late Blight could potentially devastate Nevada's \$15 million potato industry, as well as all tomato plants.

(Geo. Dorsa, Peggy McKie story)

Slide 12— (other pests) AHB and Pine Shoot Moth

Slide 13— (plant industry) Our biggest problem is diseased or infested plant shipments to wholesale and retail nursery's, landscapers and developers. There are over 800 nurseries in the Las Vegas valley alone, not counting developers and landscapers. We just don't have the staff to inspect them all on a regular basis.

Slide 14— Pesticide and product enforcement.

Slide 15— (Noxious Weeds)

Slide 16— (AEO & Ivstk. truck) Since 9-11, the importation of devastating foreign animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, Tuberculosis in Dairy cattle, and Anthrax have become a big concern. Any animals moving into Nevada are required to have a Health Certificate from an accredited Veterinarian, as well as proof of

ownership or a brand inspection. Brand inspection of livestock has achieved a much more important role with regard to homeland-agriculture security. If a foreign animal disease outbreak should occur, the only really viable way to track where the animal(s) in question came from, or what animals they have been in contact with and where they went, is through the brand inspection program.

Slide 17— **THIS IS IT!** These officers of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, at least ½ of which are only part-time, are charged with keeping invasive species, diseased or infested plants, agriculture products and commodities and livestock out of all 109,788 sq. miles of the state (that's an area about the size of Iraq). AEO's are POST certified law enforcement officers able to perform vehicle stops and investigations, serve warrants, search and seize property, and if necessary make arrests. They do it with Army surplus weapons and used highway patrol vehicles for as many hours as we can scrape up dollars to pay them.

Since becoming operational in about January 2002, the AEU has stopped and inspected close to 5000 vehicles, written over 500 citations and warnings, inspected nurseries, landscapers, wholesale or retail outlets.