



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State



**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Cover Letter .....	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balance - For the Year Ended November 30, 2008 and 2007.....	5
Notes to the Financial Statement.....	7
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> .....	11
Schedule of Findings.....	13
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.....	15

**This page intentionally left blank.**



Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State

Agricultural Society  
Athens County  
P.O. Box 669  
Athens, Ohio 45701

To the Board of Directors:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statement due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare a financial statement pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statement in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statement present is misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statement you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

*Mary Taylor*

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

June 29, 2009

**This page intentionally left blank.**



# Mary Taylor, CPA

## Auditor of State

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Agricultural Society  
Athens County  
P.O. Box 669  
Athens, Ohio 45701

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the Agricultural Society, Athens County, Ohio (the Society), as of and for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Society has prepared this financial statement using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statement of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

While the Society does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statement does not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require agricultural societies to reformat their statement. The Society has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statement referred to above for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007 does not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Society as of November 30, 2008 and 2007, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of the Agricultural Society, Athens County, Ohio, as of November 30, 2008 and 2007, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Society has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statement.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 29, 2009, on our consideration of the Society's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

June 29, 2009



**ATHENS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Operating Receipts:</b>		
Admissions	\$ 177,126	\$ 162,896
Privilege Fees	26,363	22,454
Rentals	44,775	33,732
Sustaining and Entry Fees	34,797	33,857
Parimutuel Wagering Commission	164	91
Other Operating Receipts	3,018	4,459
 Total Operating Receipts	 286,243	 257,489
<b>Operating Disbursements:</b>		
Wages and Benefits	40,479	25,784
Utilities	26,472	25,886
Professional Services	146,399	141,809
Administrative Expense	10,595	22,849
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	16,060	19,222
Race Purse	36,881	37,693
Senior Fair	24,143	22,410
Junior Fair	24,079	18,174
Capital Outlay	4,140	4,140
Other Operating Disbursements	3,162	3,556
 Total Operating Disbursements	 328,270	 321,523
 Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Receipts Over (Under) Operating Disbursements	 (42,027)	 (64,034)
<b>Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements):</b>		
State Support	26,148	29,044
County Support	5,000	5,000
Donations/Contributions	19,901	27,367
Investment Income	424	1,038
Debt Service	50	180
 Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	 51,523	 62,629
 Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	 9,496	 (1,405)
 Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	 73,283	 74,688
 <b>Cash Balance, End of Year</b>	 <b>\$ 82,779</b>	 <b>\$ 73,283</b>

*The notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this statement.*

**This page intentionally left blank.**

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Description of the Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Agricultural Society, Athens County, Ohio (the Society), as a body corporate and politic. The Society is a county agricultural society corporation formed under Chapter 1711 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Society was founded in 1851 to operate an annual agricultural fair. The Society sponsors the week-long Athens County Fair during August. During the fair, harness races are held. Athens County is not financially accountable for the Society. The Board of Directors manages the Society. The Board is made up of eighteen directors serving staggered three-year terms. Society members elect Board members from its membership. Members of the Society must be residents of Athens County and pay an annual membership fee to the Society.

**Reporting Entity**

The reporting entity includes all activity occurring on the fairgrounds. This includes the annual fair, harness racing during fair week and other year round activities at the fairgrounds including facility rental, track and stall rental, and community events such as demolition derbies. The reporting entity does not include any other activities or entities of Athens County, Ohio.

Notes 5 and 6, respectively, summarize the Junior Fair Board's and Junior Livestock Sale Committee's financial activity.

The Society's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the Society is financially accountable.

**B. Accounting Basis**

This financial statement follows the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Society recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

**C. Deposits and Investments**

The Society's accounting basis includes investments in its cash balances. This basis does not record investment purchases as disbursements or investment sales as receipts. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

**D. Property, Plant, and Equipment**

The Society records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007  
(Continued)**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**E. Restricted Support**

Restricted support includes amounts that donors restrict for specific uses.

**F. Income Tax Status**

The Society is a not-for-profit organization, exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society is not a private foundation within the meaning of Section 509(a). Contributions to the Society are deductible per Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v1). Management is unaware of any actions or events that would jeopardize the Society's tax status.

**G. Race Purse**

Harness stake races are held during the Athens County Fair. The Society pays all Sustaining and Entry fees and the required portion of the cash received from the Ohio Fairs Fund as Race Purse to winning horses.

Sustaining and Entry Fees

Horse owners and the Southern Valley Colt Circuit pay fees to the Society to qualify horses for entry into stake races. They must make payment before a horse can participate in a stake race. The accompanying financial statement report these fees as Sustaining and Entry Fees.

Ohio Fairs Fund

The State of Ohio contributes money to the Society from the Ohio Fairs Fund to supplement the race purse. See Note 3 for additional information.

**H. Pari-mutuel Wagering**

A wagering system totals the amounts wagered and adjusts the payoff to reflect the relative amount bet on different horses and various odds. The total amount bet (also known as the "handle"), less commission, is paid to bettors in accordance with the payoffs, as the pari-mutuel wagering system determines. The Society contracts with a totalizer service to collect bets and provide the pari-mutuel wagering system.

Pari-mutuel wagering commission (the commission) is the Society's share of total pari-mutuel wagers after payment of amounts to winning bettors. The commission is determined by applying a statutory percentage to the total amount bet and is reflected in the accompanying financial statement as Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission. See Note 3 for additional information.

**2. DEPOSITS**

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at November 30, 2008 and 2007 was as follows:

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007  
(Continued)**

**2. DEPOSITS (Continued)**

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$ 82,779	\$ 73,283

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**3. HORSE RACING**

State Support Portion of Purse

The financial statement reports Ohio Fairs Fund money, received to supplement purse for the year ended November 30, 2008 and 2007 was \$13,848 and \$17,696, respectively as State Support.

Pari-mutuel Wagering

The Society does not record the Total Amount Bet or the Payoff to Bettors in the accompany financial statement, rather, it records the Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission (commission) which is the Society's share of total pari-mutuel wagers after paying winning bettors. The expenses of providing the pari-mutuel wagering system are called Tote Services, and these expenses are included in Professional Service Disbursements, State taxes, which are also paid from Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission, are reflected in Other Operating Disbursements, and the amount remaining is the Society's net portion.

	2008	2007
Total Amount Bet (Handle)	\$ 6,394	\$ 4,282
Less: Payoff to Bettors	(5,155)	(3,450)
Parimutuel Wagering Commission	1,239	832
Tote Service Set Up Fee	(600)	(600)
Tote Service Commission	(405)	(114)
State Tax	(133)	(90)
Society Portion	\$ 101	\$ 28

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Society provides health coverage for full-time, supervisory employees through an insurance company.

The Athens County Commissioners provide general insurance coverage for all the buildings on the Athens County Fairgrounds pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 1711.24. A private company provides general liability insurance, with limits of \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000 aggregate.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007  
(Continued)**

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

Vehicle coverage is also provided with a limit of \$1,000,000. This policy includes crime coverage for employee dishonesty with limits of liability of \$50,000. The Society's Treasurer is bonded with coverage of \$50,000.

The Society provides workers compensation coverage on all employees through the State of Ohio workers compensation fund. Coverage is currently in effect through August 2009.

**5. JUNIOR FAIR BOARD**

The Junior Fair Board, which is comprised of 4-H, FFA, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Farm Bureau Youth organization representatives, is responsible for the Junior Fair Division activities of the Athens County Fair. The Society disbursed \$24,079 in 2008 and \$18,174 in 2007 directly to vendors to support Junior Fair activities. These expenses are reflected as a disbursement in the accompanying financial statement as Junior Fair Disbursement. Athens County paid the Society \$500 in 2008 and \$500 in 2007 to support Junior Club work. The Junior Fair Board accounts for its activities separately. This accompanying financial statement does not include this activity. The Junior Fair Board's financial activity for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007, follows:

	2008	2007
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 370	\$ 466
Receipts	591	800
Disbursements	(716)	(896)
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 245	\$ 370

**6. JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE COMMITTEE**

The Junior Livestock Committee is a separate committee charged with running the Junior Livestock Auction. This auction is held during fair week. Children may sell their animals directly to market or through the Athens County Junior Livestock Auction. A commission of three percent on auction sales covers auction costs. The Junior Livestock Committee retains this money. The accompanying financial statement does not include the Junior Livestock Committee's activities. The Junior Livestock Committee's financial activity for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007, follows:

	2008	2007
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 9,098	\$ 13,097
Receipts	240,909	238,178
Disbursements	(243,733)	(242,177)
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 6,274	\$ 9,098



# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Agricultural Society  
Athens County  
P.O. Box 669  
Athens, Ohio 45701

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the financial statement of the Agricultural Society, Athens County, Ohio (the Society), as of and for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated June 29, 2009, wherein we noted the Society prepared its financial statement using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

### Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Society's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Society's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Society's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider finding 2008-001 described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Society's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. Of the significant deficiency described above, we believe finding number 2008-001 is also a material weakness.

We also noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the Society's management in a separate letter dated June 29, 2009.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Society's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Society's management in a separate letter dated June 29, 2009.

The Society's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. We did not audit the Society's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management and Board of Directors, We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

June 29, 2009



**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**FINDING NUMBER 2008-001**

**Material Weakness**

All public officials are responsible for the design and operation of a system of internal control that is adequate to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives for their respective public offices in certain categories.

"Internal control" means a process affected by an entity's governing board, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories:

- Reliability of financial reporting;
- Effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
- Compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- Safeguarding of assets.

When designing the public office's system of internal control and the specific control activities, management should consider the following:

- Ensure that management properly authorizes all transactions in accordance with their policies.
- Ensure that management has properly designed accounting records.
- Ensure adequate security of assets and records.
- Plan for adequate segregation of duties or compensating controls.
- Verify the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records.
- Perform analytical procedures to determine the reasonableness of financial data.
- Ensure the collection and compilation of the data needed for the timely preparation of financial statements.

The Treasurer did not reconcile the 2008 and 2007 annual financial reports to the Quick Books accounting system or to the bank statements. The discrepancies resulted from failure to 'clear' voided or lost checks in the accounting system, which overstated expenditures on the accounting system. Prior audit adjustments were made to the accounting system; however, the Treasurer did not "clear" the transactions on the accounting system resulting in the prior audit adjustments showing as outstanding reconciling items on the reconciliations.

This resulted in the 2008 and 2007 annual reports, prepared by the Society, to be incorrect. In 2008, receipts were understated on the annual report by \$16,819 and disbursements were understated by \$2,501. In 2007, receipts were understated on the annual report by \$50 and disbursements were overstated by \$17,443. This also resulted in additional time to audit the financial records and transactions due to the accounting system not agreeing to the manual check register or the bank statements. Reconciling the accounting system to the bank records is a key feature of a sound internal control system, helping to ensure the accuracy of the financial statements.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007  
(Continued)**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</b>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**FINDING NUMBER 2008-001 (Continued)**

**Material Weakness (Continued)**

We recommend the Treasurer reconcile the Quick Books system to the manual check register and bank statements monthly. The Treasurer should investigate any variances between the Quick Books system, the manual check register and the bank statements promptly.

**Officials' Response:** The Athens County Agricultural Society will work to correct the findings by the Treasurer reconciling each of the Board's accounts monthly in order to correctly identify any discrepancies immediately. The Board will also annually make a motion to void any checks that have not cleared over a year old.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2007**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <b><i>Explain</i></b>
2006-001	A material weakness was issued regarding the Quick Books accounting system not being reconciled to the manual check register or bank statements.	No	Partially corrected.  The check register was reconciled with the bank in 2008. However, the general ledger and the financial statements did not include all of the activity included on the check register.  Reissued in the current Schedule of Findings as Finding Number 2008-001.
2006-002	Finding for Recovery Society failed to remit Athens City Income Taxes withheld from employees during 2006.	Yes	N/A





**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**ATHENS COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
AUGUST 4, 2009**