



**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2007 AND 2008



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Agricultural Society
Huron County
940 Fair Road
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-2041

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

March 31, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Agricultural Society
Huron County
940 Fair Road
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-2041

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Agricultural Society, Huron County, (the Society) as of and for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements 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 statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. 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 these financial statements 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 statements 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 statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require societies to reformat their statements. 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 statements referred to above for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007, do 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 statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of the Agricultural Society, Huron County, 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 statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 31, 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.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

March 31, 2009

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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

	2008	2007
Operating Receipts:		
Admissions	\$214,932	\$237,542
Privilege Fees	96,353	89,391
Rentals	89,722	65,503
Other Operating Receipts	23,117	28,590
Total Operating Receipts	424,124	421,026
Operating Disbursements:		
Wages and Benefits	51,149	45,795
Utilities	63,301	61,573
Professional Services	140,715	150,438
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	120,565	68,065
Senior Fair	17,731	18,618
Junior Fair	28,314	28,751
Capital Outlay	4,149	227,971
Other Operating Disbursements	64,093	53,614
Total Operating Disbursements	490,017	654,825
Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Receipts Over (Under) Operating Disbursements	(65,893)	(233,799)
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements):		
State Support	7,300	6,348
County Support	18,000	18,000
Loan Proceeds		218,300
Donations/Contributions	59,421	69,489
Investment Income	274	306
Debt Service	(23,025)	(44,571)
Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	61,970	267,872
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(3,923)	34,073
Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	69,152	35,079
Cash Balance, End of Year	\$65,229	\$69,152

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

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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, Huron County, (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 1921 to operate an annual agricultural fair. The Society sponsors the week-long Huron County Fair during August. Huron County is not financially accountable for the Society. The Board of Directors manages the Society. The Board is made up of 31 directors serving staggered three-year terms. Society members elect Board members from its membership. Members of the Society must be residents of Huron County and pay an annual membership fee to the Society.

Reporting Entity

The reporting entity includes all activity occurring on the fairgrounds and the annual fair. Other year round activities at the fairgrounds including facility rental, track and stall rental, and community events including Firelands Antique Restored Machines (FARM) shows, flea markets, and motorcycle races. The reporting entity does not include any other activities or entities of Huron 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

These financial statements follow 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.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

D. Restricted Support

Restricted support includes amounts that donors restrict for specific uses.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

E. 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.

2. DEPOSITS

The carrying amount of deposits at November 30, 2008 and 2007 was as follows:

	2008	2007
Demand deposits	\$39,027	\$43,224
Savings account	26,202	25,928
Total deposits	\$65,229	\$69,152

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

3. DEBT

Debt outstanding at November 30, 2008, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Promissary Note	\$202,279	6.90%

The note bears an interest rate of 6.90 percent and is due to National City Bank. The note was entered into on June 8, 2007 and matures October 31, 2021. The Society is to make annual payments of \$24,066. Proceeds of the note were used to upgrade the Society's camping facilities.

The amount borrowed in 2007 exceeded the amount allowed by the Ohio Revised Code, which limits unsecured debt to 25 percent of annual revenues.

Amortization of the above debt is scheduled as follows:

Year ending November 30:	Note Principal	Interest	Total
2009	10,109	13,957	\$24,066
2010	10,806	13,260	24,066
2011	11,552	12,514	24,066
2012	12,349	11,717	24,066
2013	13,201	10,865	24,066
2014-2018	80,991	39,338	120,329
2019-2021	63,271	8,927	72,197
Total	\$202,279	\$110,578	\$312,857

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Huron County Commissioners provide general insurance coverage for all the buildings on the Huron County Fairgrounds pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 1711.24.

The Society is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Society provides workers compensation coverage on all employees through the State of Ohio workers compensation fund.

The Society belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty Coverage

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006, PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. PEP pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year.

For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with PEP.

If losses exhaust PEP's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (on or subsequent to January 1, 2006) as noted above.

Property Coverage

Beginning in 2005, APEEP established a risk-sharing property program. Under the program, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. This amount was increased to \$300,000 in 2007. For 2007, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. For 2006, APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in 2006, or \$100,000 and \$300,000 in 2007, Travelers will then reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2007 was \$2,014,548.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge PEP's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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

4. RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

Financial Position

PEP's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2007 and 2006 (the latest information available):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets	\$37,560,071	\$36,123,194
Liabilities	(17,340,825)	(16,738,904)
Net Assets	<u>\$20,219,246</u>	<u>\$19,384,290</u>

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$15.9 million and \$15.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$15.0 million and \$14.4 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 443 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Society's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$10,000. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Society terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to PEP for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to PEP</u>	
2005	\$7,411
2006	\$7,964
2007	\$8,516

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined PEP provided they provide written notice to PEP 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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

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 Huron County Fair. The Society disbursed \$28,314 in 2008 and \$28,751 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.

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 Huron County's auction. A commission of 4 percent on grand reserve auction sales and 2 percent on sales of all other animals 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 year ended November 30, 2008 and 2007 follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 6,647	\$ 9,649
Receipts	323,724	297,902
Disbursements	<u>(322,816)</u>	<u>(300,904)</u>
Ending Cash Balance	<u>\$ 7,555</u>	<u>\$ 6,647</u>



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
Huron County
940 Fair Road
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-2041

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the financial statements of the Agricultural Society, Huron County, (the Society) as of and for the years ended November 30, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated March 31, 2009, wherein we noted the Society followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes 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 statements, 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.

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.

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 internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the Society's management in a separate letter dated March 31, 2009.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Society's financial statements are 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 an instance of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2008-001.

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 the Board of Directors, the audit committee, and management. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

March 31, 2009

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
HURON COUNTY**

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

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2008-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 1711.13 allows county agricultural societies to obtain mortgage debt or to enter into written agreements to obtain loans and credit for expenses. Ohio Revised Code § 1711.13(B) further states the total net indebtedness of a society for non-mortgage debt shall not exceed an amount equal to twenty-five percent of its annual revenues.

The Society entered into an unsecured loan totaling \$218,300 in 2007 for the purpose of improving the campgrounds. The total loan exceeded the twenty-five percent maximum indebtedness allowed by approximately \$85,000.

We recommend the Society review the requirements of this Ohio Revised Code section and implement procedures to ensure the Society does not exceed the maximum allowable indebtedness.

Officials' Response:

We were not aware of this requirement and we will follow it for any future borrowings.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HURON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

HURON 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
MAY 7, 2009**