



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEAUGA COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Accountants' Report	1
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Change in Cash Balance - For the Year Ended November 30, 2002	3
Notes to the Financial Statement	5
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	9

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**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Geauga County Agricultural Society
Geauga County
P.O. Box 402
14373 N. Cheshire Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of Geauga County Agricultural Society, Geauga County, Ohio, (the Society) as of and for the year ended November 30, 2002. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Society prepares its financial statement on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash balance of the Geauga County Agricultural Society, Geauga County, Ohio, as of November 30, 2002, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 16, 2003 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 grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, the Board of Directors, and other officials authorized to receive this report under § 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

April 16, 2003

**GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2002**

	2002
Operating Receipts:	
Admissions	\$501,188
Privilege Fees	234,213
Rentals	169,283
Racing Fees and Charges	29,334
Substaining and Entry Fees	15,200
Paramutual Wagering Commission	1,094
Utilities	7,020
Fees	19,595
Restricted Support	63,118
Unrestricted Support	16,129
Sale of Notes	50,000
Investment Income	2,499
	<u>1,108,673</u>
Operating Disbursements:	
Wages and Benefits	200,648
Utilities	75,630
Professional Services	97,031
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	131,429
Administrative	24,627
Supplies	22,867
Racing	47,131
Advertising	38,655
Repairs	45,085
Insurance	38,441
Rent and Lease	36,575
Debt Service	85,666
Senior Fair	79,448
Junior Fair	14,847
Capital Outlay	139,562
Other Operating Disbursements	1,697
	<u>1,079,339</u>
Excess of Operating Receipts Over Operating Disbursements	<u>29,334</u>
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements):	
State Support	38,627
County Support	3,300
Utilities	(2,000)
Racing	(30,488)
Advertising	(4,298)
Junior Fair	(5,141)
	<u>0</u>
Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>0</u>
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	29,334
Fund Cash Balances, December 1	<u>230,489</u>
Fund Cash Balances, November 30	<u>\$259,823</u>

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

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**GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2002**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Geauga County Agricultural Society, Geauga County, Ohio (the Society) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Society is a county agricultural society corporation formed under Chapter 1711 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Society was founded in 1823 to direct the operation of an annual agricultural fair. The Society sponsors the week-long Geauga County Fair that ends Labor Day weekend. During the fair numerous nightly events are held, including harness racing. Geauga County is not financially accountable for the Society. The financial activity of the Junior Fair Board and Junior Livestock Committee are run through and incorporated with the Society. The responsibility for management of the affairs of the Society is vested in the Board of Directors. The Board is made up of twenty-three directors serving staggered three-year terms, elected from the membership of the Society. Members of the Society must be residents of Geauga 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 and harness racing during fair week. Other year round activities at the fairgrounds including facility rental, track and stall rental, and community events. The reporting entity does not include any other activities or entities of Geauga County, Ohio.

The financial activity of the Junior Fair Board and the Junior Livestock Sale Committee is reported by the Society.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

This financial statement follows the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

C. Cash and Investments

The Society has an interest bearing checking account and Certificates of Deposit.

D. Budgetary Process

The Board of Directors annually prepares an operating budget, including estimated receipts and disbursements. The Board approves the budget in its final form during the first six months of each fiscal year. The Board reviews the budget throughout the year and compares it with actual results.

**GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2002
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as capital outlay disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statement.

F. Restricted Support

Restricted support includes amounts that are required by the donor to be set aside for specific uses.

G. Income Tax Status

The Society is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society has also been classified as an entity that is not a private foundation within the meaning of Section 509 (a) and qualifies for deductible contributions as provided in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v1). Management is not aware of any actions or events that would jeopardize the Society's tax status.

H. Race Purse

Stake races are conducted during the Geauga 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 U.S. Trotting Association pay fees to the Society to qualify horses for entry into stake races. These payments must be made before a horse can participate in a stake race. These fees are reflected on the accompanying financial statement as Sustaining and Entry Fees.

Ohio Fairs Fund

The State of Ohio contributes money to the Society from the Ohio Fairs Fund to help supplement race purse. See Note 4 for additional information.

I. Parimutuel 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 determined by the parimutuel wagering system. The Society contracts with a totalizer service to collect bets and provide the parimutuel wagering system.

Parimutuel wagering commission (commission) is the Society's share of total parimutuel 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 Parimutuel Wagering Commission. See Note 4 for additional information.

**GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2002
(Continued)**

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

For the year ended November 30, 2002, the Society had budgeted receipts of \$932,900, actual receipts of \$1,150,600, resulting in a variance of (\$217,700). Additionally, the Society had budgeted disbursements of \$1,061,150, actual disbursements of \$1,121,266, resulting in a variance of (\$60,116).

Contrary to the Society's budgetary policy, actual disbursements exceeded budgeted disbursements for the year ended November 30, 2002.

3. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The carrying amount of cash and investments at November 30, 2002 follows:

	2002
Demand deposits	\$159,823
Certificates of deposit	100,000
Total deposits	\$259,823

Deposits: \$100,000 of the demand deposits and \$100,000 of the certificates of deposit were covered by Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The remainder was uninsured and uncollateralized.

4. HORSE RACING

State Support Portion of Purse

Ohio Fairs Fund money received to supplement purse for the year ended November 30, 2002 was \$4,000 and is included within State Support on the accompanying financial statement.

Parimutuel Wagering

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

	2002
Total Amount Bet (Handle)	\$16,566
Less: Payoff to Bettors	(13,231)
Parimutuel Wagering Commission	3,335
Tote Service Set Up Fee	(200)
Tote Service Commission	(1,640)
State Tax	(401)
Society Portion	\$1,094

**GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
GEAUGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2002
(Continued)**

6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

All employees contribute to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants. For 2002 employees contributed 6.2% of their gross salaries. The Society contributed an amount equal to 6.2% of participant's gross salaries through November 30, 2002.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Geauga County Commissioners provide general insurance coverage for all the buildings on the Geauga County Fairgrounds pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 1711. 24. General liability and vehicle coverage is provided by the Ohio Fair Participating Plan Insurance Company with limits of \$2,000,000 and \$1,000,000 aggregate. This policy includes crime coverage for employee dishonesty with limits of liability of \$10,000. The Society's general manager is bonded with coverage of \$100,000.

The Society provides workers compensation coverage on all employees through the State of Ohio workers compensation fund. Coverage is currently in effect through August 2002.



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Geauga County Agricultural Society
Geauga County
P.O. Box 402
14373 N. Cheshire Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the financial statement of Geauga County Agricultural Society, Geauga County, Ohio (the Society) as of and for the year ended November 30, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated April 16, 2003. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Society's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Society's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted certain other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management and the Board in a separate letter dated April 16, 2003.

Geauga County Agricultural Society
Geauga County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management and the Board of Directors, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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

Betty Montgomery
Auditor of State

April 16, 2003



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

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GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

GEAUGA 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 29, 2003**