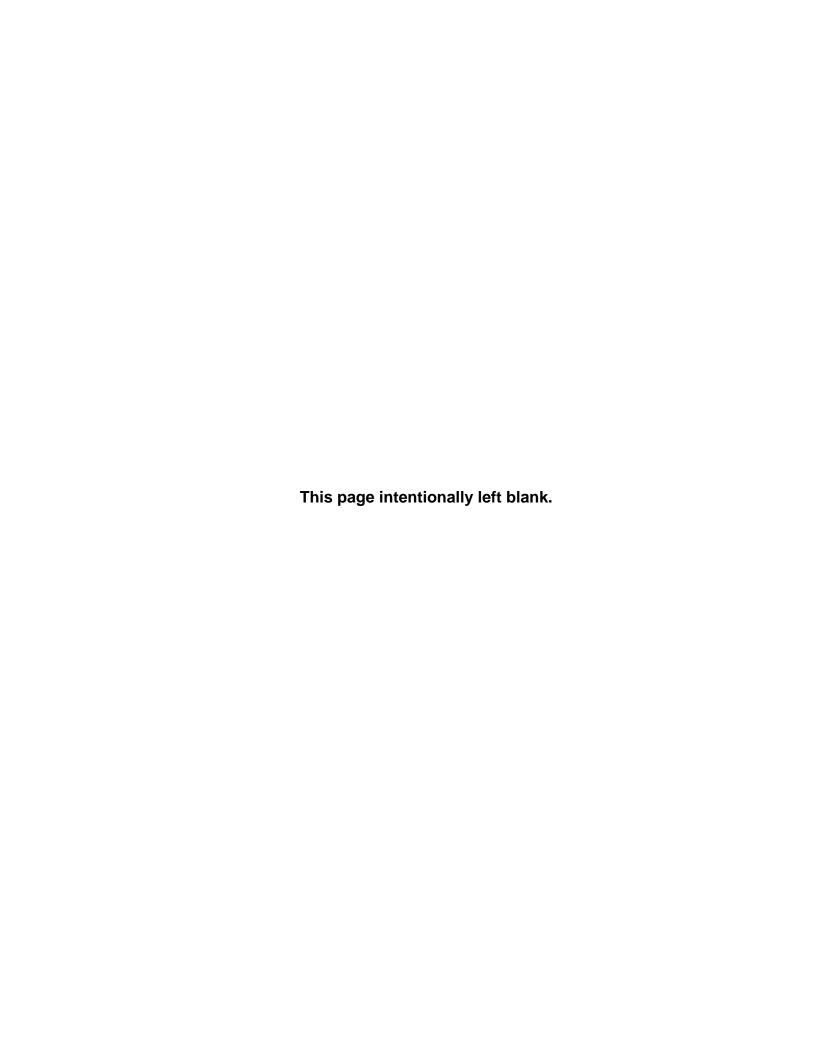




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# Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mercer County Agricultural Society Mercer County PO Box 301 Celina, Ohio 45822

Mary Taylor

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 a February 2, 2005 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 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.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

July 17, 2007

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# Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Mercer County Agricultural Society Mercer County PO Box 301 Celina, Ohio 45822

### To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Mercer County Agricultural Society, Mercer County, (the Society), as of and for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005. 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.

Revisions to GAAP would require the Society to reformat its financial statement presentation and make other changes effective for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005. 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 the new GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Society has elected not to reformat its statements. Since the Society does not use GAAP to measure financial statement amounts, 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, 2006 and 2005, do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Mercer County Agricultural Society as of November 30, 2006 and 2005, or its changes in financial position or cash flows for the years then ended.

Mercer County Agricultural Society Mercer County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances of the Mercer County Agricultural Society, Mercer County, as of November 30, 2006 and 2005, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Society to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005. 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 July 17, 2007, 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

Mary Taylor

July 17, 2007

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2006

	2006
Operating Receipts	
Admissions	\$166,659
Privilege Fees	32,194
Rentals	57,869
Sustaining and Entry Fees	38,505
Parimutuel Wagering Commission	5,914
Other Operating Receipts	40,889
Total Operating Receipts	342,030
Operating Disbursements	
Wages and Benefits	54,179
Utilities	39,247
Professional Services	111,628
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	85,114
Race Purse	71,511
Senior Fair	19,174
Junior Fair	21,907
Capital Outlay	14,800
Other Operating Disbursements	79,750
Total Operating Disbursements	497,310
(Deficiency) of Operating Receipts	
(Under) Operating Disbursements	(155,280)
Non-Consection Descriptor (Disharm consects)	
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	00.455
State Support	29,155
County Support	29,500
Restricted Support	36,483
Unrestricted Support	73,505
Investment Income	1,432
Debt Proceeds	14,800
Debt Payments  Not Non Operating Receipts (Disburgements)	(5,000)
Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	179,875
(Deficiency) of Receipts (Under) Disbursements	24,595
Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	90,691
Cash Balance, End of Year	<u>\$115,286</u>

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

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGE IN CASH BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2005

	2005
Operating Receipts:	
Admissions	\$165,472
Privilege Fees	28,216
Rentals	51,959
Sustaining and Entry Fees	38,980
Parimutuel Wagering Commission	5,464
Other Operating Receipts	16,129
Total Operating Receipts	306,220
Operating Disbursements:	
Wages and Benefits	33,491
Utilities	32,371
Professional Services	103,402
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	63,015
Race Purse	74,520
Senior Fair	23,774
Junior Fair	18,262
Other Operating Disbursements	60,303
Total Operating Disbursements	409,138
Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Receipts	
Over (Under) Operating Disbursements	(102,918)
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements):	
State Support	31,994
County Support	4,529
Restricted Support	7,770
Unrestricted Support	62,916
Investment Income	650
Debt Payments	(5,000)
Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	102,859
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(59)
Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	90,750
Cash Balance, End of Year	\$90,691

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

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005

### 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 Mercer County Agricultural Society (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 1852 to operate an annual agricultural fair. The Society sponsors the week-long Mercer County Fair during August. During the fair, harness races are held. Mercer County is not financially accountable for the Society. The Board of Directors manages the Society. The Board is made up of 18 directors serving staggered three-year terms. Society members elect Board members from its membership. Members of the Society must be residents of Mercer 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 simulcast relating to harness racing. Other year round activities at the fairgrounds including facility rental, track and stall rental. The reporting entity does not include any other activities or entities of Mercer County, Ohio.

Notes 6 and 7, respectively, summarize the Junior Fair Board's and Junior Livestock Sale Committee's financial activity.

The Society's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Society is financially accountable.

### B. Basis of Accounting

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

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

### C. Cash and Investments

The Society's accounting basis includes investments in its cash balances. Accordingly, this basis does not report investment purchases as disbursements or investment sales as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

### D. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Society's accounting basis records acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment as capital outlay disbursements when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not include these items as assets.

### E. Restricted Support

Restricted support includes amounts that donors restrict for specific uses. These include money for sponsorships and promotions.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005 (Continued)

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### 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

Stake races are held during the Mercer 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.

### 1. Sustaining and Entry Fees

Horse owners and the Western Ohio Colt Racing Association 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.

#### 2. 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 parimutuel 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.

### I. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The Society's basis of accounting does not report these amounts as liabilities.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005 (Continued)

### 2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

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

	2006	2005
Demand deposits	\$69,358	\$65,459
Certificates of deposit	45,928	25,232
Total deposits	\$115,286	\$90,691

**Deposits:** The Federal Depository Insurance Corporation insures up to \$100,000 of the Society's bank balance. The Society invests funds earmarked for specific projects in separate savings accounts at local financial institutions.

### 3. HORSE RACING

### A. State Support Portion of Purse

The financial statements report Ohio Fairs Fund money, received to supplement purses for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005 was \$25,309 and \$28,192 respectively, as State Support.

### B. 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.

Year	2006	2005
Total Amount to Bet (Handle)	\$ 28,950	\$ 26,675
Less: Payoff to Bettors	23,036	21,211
Parimutuel Wagering Commission	5,914	5,464
Tote Service Set Up Fee	(450)	(450)
Tote Service Commission	(2,592)	(2,391)
State Tax	(837)	(745)
Society Portion	\$ 2,035	\$ 1,878

### 4. DEBT

Debt outstanding at November 30, 2006 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
County Loan - Restroom	\$54,700	3.10%
County Loan - Purchase of FOP Building	14,800	0.00%
	\$69,500	

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005 (Continued)

### 4. DEBT (Continued)

The Mercer County Commissioners loaned the Society \$173,300 on August 10, 2000, for repairs to the restrooms. The County then issued a general obligation note to finance the construction costs. The loan from the County shall be paid back as follows: interest at a rate based upon the annual interest rate charged to the County on the outstanding note balance plus fees to renew the note plus an amount to cover some of the principal. There is no set repayment schedule for the note principal.

The Mercer County Commissioners loaned the Society \$14,800 on June 6, 2006, for purchase of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Building on the fairgrounds. The loan is to be repaid in four annual installments of \$3,700 beginning July 1, 2007.

#### 5. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

The Society's Treasurer is bonded with coverage in the amount of \$12,000.

### **Risk Pool Membership**

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.

### A. Casualty Coverage

PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per claim, including loss 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 \$5,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect additional coverage, from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000 from the General Reinsurance Corporation.

If losses exhaust PEP's retained earnings, APEEP covers PEP losses up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000.

### **B.** Property Coverage

PEP retains property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsures losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500,000,000 per occurrence. APEEP's Guarantee Fund pays losses and loss adjustment expenses exceeding operating contributions.

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 local government.

### C. 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, 2006 and 2005:

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005 (Continued)

### 5. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Casualty Coverage	2006	2005	
Assets	\$30,997,868	\$29,719,675	
Liabilities	(15,875,741)	(15,994,168)	
Retained earnings	\$15,122,127	\$13,725,507	
Property Coverage	2006	2005	
Property Coverage Assets	<b>2006</b> \$5,125,326	<b>2005</b> \$4,443,332	

#### 6. JUNIOR FAIR BOARD

The Junior Fair Board, which is comprised of 4-H, FFA, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Farm Bureau Youth organization representatives, and is responsible for the Junior Fair Division activities of the Mercer County Fair. The Society disbursed no funds during fiscal years 2006 and 2005 directly to the Junior Fair Board and \$21,907 and \$18,262 respectively for fiscal years 2006 and 2005 directly to vendors to support Junior Fair activities. These expenses are reflected as a disbursement in the accompanying financial statements as Junior Fair Disbursement. Mercer County paid the Society no money to support Junior Club work. The Junior Fair Board accounts for its activities separately. These accompanying financial statements do not include this activity. The Junior Fair Board's financial activity for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005 follows:

	2006	2005
Beginning Cash Balance	\$2,382	\$1,905
Receipts	7,874	7,938
Disbursements	(7,759)	(7,461)
Ending Cash Balance	\$2,497	\$2,382

#### 7. 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 Mercer County's auction. Monies to cover the costs of the auction are generated through a percent commission by species per group of animals (pen) assessed on the auction price and are retained by the Junior Livestock Committee. The accompanying financial statements do not include the Junior Livestock Committee's activities. The Junior Livestock Committee's financial activity for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005 follows:

	2006	2005
Beginning Cash Balance	\$5,469	\$5,936
Receipts	169,086	162,448
Disbursements	(172,025)	(162,915)
Ending Cash Balance	\$2,530	\$5,469

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

Mercer County Agricultural Society Mercer County PO Box 301 Celina, Ohio 45822

#### To the Board of Directors:

We have audited the financial statements of the Mercer County Agricultural Society, Mercer County, (the Society), as of and for the years ended November 30, 2006 and 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated July 17, 2007, wherein we noted the Society follows 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 to determine our auditing procedures to express our opinion on the financial statements and not to opine on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Society's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with management's assertions in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2006-001.

A material weakness is a reportable 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 caused by error or fraud in amounts material to the financial statements we audited may occur and not be timely detected by employees when performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered material weaknesses. We consider reportable condition 2006-001 listed above to be a material weakness.

In a separate letter to the Society's management dated July 17, 2007, we reported other matters involving internal control over financial reporting we did not deem reportable conditions.

Mercer County Agricultural Society
Mercer County
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

### **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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* 

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

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

July 17, 2007

### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005

### FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2006-001**

#### **MATERIAL WEAKNESS**

### **System Reconciliations and Financial Statement Presentation**

All local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets, and document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements.

Society personnel did not assure that the amounts reported on the annual financial reports were complete or accurate and that the ending balance agreed with the amounts reported on their accounting system's general ledger. As a result, several transaction types were not included on the financial statements and the ending balance did not reconcile with the systems general ledger. Also, transfers in did not equal transfers out and petty cash transactions and some "other expenditures" were recorded as transfers and were not carried forward to the financial statements.

The absence of a process to assure that financial statements are complete and accurate and amounts agree with reports generated from the Society's accounting system could lead to inaccurate financial reporting. The accompanying financial statements contain the required adjustments to properly present the Society's financial activity for 2006 and 2005.

Society personnel should institute a process for completing annual financial reports which provides assurance that all amounts were properly posted, which can be done in part by reconciling the ending balance on the annual reports with the ending balance from the accounting system.

### Officials Response:

In 2007 a new reconciliation process was put in place incorporating all the system balances. The Secretary intends to review the annual financial statements in the future for proper posting before they are submitted.

### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS NOVEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2005

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2004-001	System reconciliations and Financial Statement Presentation	No	Re-issued as finding 2006-001.



# Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

### **AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **MERCER 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.

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU** 

Susan Babbitt

**CERTIFIED AUGUST 9, 2007**