

**RICHWOOD INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
UNION COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2023, AND 2022



GUEYE & ASSOCIATES, CPA, INC.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Board of Directors
Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
1 Gill St
Richwood, OH 43344

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Richwood Independent Agricultural Society, Union County, prepared by Gueye & Associates, CPA, for the audit period December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Richwood Independent Agricultural Society is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

April 09, 2024

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**RICHWOOD INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
UNION COUNTY**

NOVEMBER 30, 2023, AND 2022

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
1 Gill Street
P.O. Box 71
Richwood, Ohio 43344

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Richwood Independent Agricultural Society, Union County, Ohio (the Society), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements, as of and for the years ended November 30, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinions on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements as of and for the years ended November 30, 2023 and November 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements of the Society, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Society, as of November 30, 2023, and November 30, 2022, or the changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Society, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by Society on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

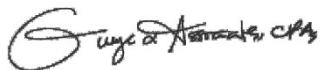
- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 29, 2024, 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. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Society's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Columbus, Ohio
March 29, 2024

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and
Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis)
For the Year Ended November 30, 2023

Operating Receipts	
Taxes	\$373
Admissions	78,409
Privilege Fees	13,442
Rentals	37,357
Sustaining and Entry Fees	24,705
Other Operating Receipts	9,204
	163,490
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	
Operating Disbursements	
Utilities	22,309
Professional Services	109,469
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	11,989
Property and Rent Services	46,585
Race Purse	99,096
Senior Fair	8,387
Junior Fair	19,126
Capital Outlay	218,960
Other Operating Disbursements	71,711
	607,632
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	
<i>Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Receipts</i>	
<i>Over (Under) Operating Disbursements</i>	
	(444,142)
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
State Support	153,359
Local Support	75,910
Donations/Contributions	341,426
Investment Income	1,208
Debt Service	(219)
	571,684
<i>Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	
<i>Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	
	127,542
Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	115,080
	115,080
<i>Cash Balance, End of Year</i>	\$242,622

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

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended November 30, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The Agricultural Society of Richwood Independent Fair (the Society), Union County, is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Society is an agricultural society corporation formed under Chapter 1711 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Society was founded in 1892 to operate an annual agricultural fair. The Society sponsors the week – long Richwood Independent Fair from August 30 to September 4. During the fair, harness races are held. Union 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 Union County and pay an annual membership fee to the Society.

The reporting entity includes all activity occurring on the fairgrounds. This includes the annual fair, harness racing during fair week. Other year-round activities at the fairgrounds include facility rental, track and stall rental, and community events including trade shows, auctions, horse shows, and classic car shows. The reporting entity does not include any other activities or entities of Union 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 this financial statement presents all activities for which the Society is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The Society's financial statement consists of a statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis).

Basis of Accounting

This financial statement follows the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). 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. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended November 30, 2023

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.

Race Purse

Harness races are held during the Richwood Independent 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 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 reports 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 4 for additional information.

Note 3 – Deposits and Investments

The Society maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at November 30 was as follows:

	2023
Demand deposits	\$142,622
Certificates of deposit	100,000
Total deposits	242,622

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Society; or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 4 – Horse Racing

State Support Portion of Purse

The financial statement reports Ohio Fairs Fund money, received to supplement purse for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2023, in the amount of \$2,548 as State Support.

Pari-mutuel Wagering

The Society does not record the Total Amount Bet or the Payoff to Bettors in the accompanying financial statement, rather, it records the Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission which is the Society's share of total pari-mutuel wagers after paying winning bettors.

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended November 30, 2023

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 the Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission, are reflected in Other Operating Disbursements, and the amount remaining is the Society's net portion. In 2023, the Society did not have any pari-mutuel wagering activities.

Note 5 – Risk Management

The Society is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Society's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31 (latest information available):

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 42,310,794
Actuarial liabilities	\$15,724,479

Note 6 – Junior Fair Board

The Junior Fair Board discusses activities and makes recommendations to the Society's Board of Directors. All decisions about Junior Fair activities must be approved by the Society. The financial activities of the Junior Fair are included in the Society's financial statement.

Note 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 Richwood Independent Fair auction. A commission of 2.5 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 fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, follows:

	2023
Beginning Balance	\$ 10,017
Receipts	14,075
Disbursements	(12,326)
Ending Cash Balances	<u>\$ 11,766</u>

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and
Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis)
For the Year Ended November 30, 2022

Operating Receipts	
Taxes	\$220
Admissions	72,240
Privilege Fees	11,687
Rentals	33,299
Sustaining and Entry Fees	24,960
Other Operating Receipts	10,834
	153,240
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	
Operating Disbursements	
Utilities	21,925
Professional Services	91,116
Equipment and Grounds Maintenance	7,885
Property and Rent Services	40,873
Race Purse	69,365
Senior Fair	11,974
Junior Fair	18,256
Capital Outlay	119,200
Other Operating Disbursements	79,290
	459,884
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	
<i>Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Receipts</i>	
<i>Over (Under) Operating Disbursements</i>	
	(306,644)
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
State Support	12,085
Local Support	16,000
Donations/Contributions	286,042
Investment Income	1
Mortgage Income	9,200
Debt Service	(28,163)
	295,165
<i>Net Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	
<i>Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	
	(11,479)
Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	126,559
	126,559
<i>Cash Balance, End of Year</i>	\$115,080

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

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended November 30, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The Agricultural Society of Richwood Independent Fair (the Society), Union County, is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Society is an agricultural society corporation formed under Chapter 1711 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Society was founded in 1892 to operate an annual agricultural fair. The Society sponsors the week – long Richwood Independent Fair from August 30 to September 4. During the fair, harness races are held. Union 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 Union County and pay an annual membership fee to the Society.

The reporting entity includes all activity occurring on the fairgrounds. This includes the annual fair, harness racing during fair week. Other year-round activities at the fairgrounds include facility rental, track and stall rental, and community events including trade shows, auctions, horse shows, and classic car shows. The reporting entity does not include any other activities or entities of Union 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 this financial statement presents all activities for which the Society is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The Society's financial statement consists of a statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis).

Basis of Accounting

This financial statement follows the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). 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. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

This statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended November 30, 2022

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.

Race Purse

Harness races are held during the Richwood Independent Agricultural Society 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 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 reports 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 4 for additional information.

Note 3 – Deposits and Investments

The Society maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at November 30 was as follows:

	2022
Demand deposits	\$113,487
Certificates of deposit	1,593
Total deposits	115,080

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Society; or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 4 – Horse Racing

State Support Portion of Purse

The financial statement reports Ohio Fairs Fund money, received to supplement purse for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2022, in the amount of \$3,217 as State Support.

Pari-mutuel Wagering

The Society does not record the Total Amount Bet or the Payoff to Bettors in the accompanying financial statement, rather, it records the Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission which is the Society's share of total pari-mutuel wagers after paying winning bettors.

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended November 30, 2022

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 the Pari-mutuel Wagering Commission, are reflected in Other Operating Disbursements, and the amount remaining is the Society's net portion. In 2022, the Society did not have any pari-mutuel wagering activities.

Note 5 – Risk Management

The Society is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Society's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31 (latest information available):

	2022
Cash and investments	\$ 42,310,794
Actuarial liabilities	\$15,724,479

Note 6 – Junior Fair Board

The Junior Fair Board discusses activities and makes recommendations to the Society's Board of Directors. All decisions about Junior Fair activities must be approved by the Society. The financial activities of the Junior Fair are included in the Society's financial statement.

Note 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 Richwood Independent Fair auction. A commission of 2.5 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 fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, follows:

	2022
Beginning Cash Balances	\$ 1,292
Receipts	18,897
Disbursements	(10,172)
Ending Cash Balances	\$ 10,017



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

Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
1 Gill Street
P.O. Box 71
Richwood, Ohio 43344

To the Society Board of Directors:

We have audited, 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 the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements as of and for the years ended November 30, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Richwood Independent Agricultural Society, Union County (the Society) and have issued our report thereon dated March 29, 2024, wherein we noted the Society followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Society's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

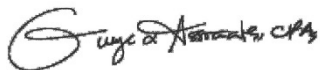
Richwood Independent Agricultural Society
Union County
Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters
Required By *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Entity's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. 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 one instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as Finding # 2023-001.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Society's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Columbus, Ohio
March 29, 2024

**RICHWOOD INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
UNION COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
NOVEMBER 30, 2023, AND 2022**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Non-Compliance: Public Records Policy and Records Retention Policy

Ohio Public Records Act - Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 requires that a public office make public records available for inspection or copying. The time required for a response depends on the type of request.

- If a request is to inspect public records, the response must be prompt.
- If copies are requested, those copies must be provided within a reasonable period of time.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) requires all public office to create and adopt a policy for responding to public records requests. Except for the exception noted in Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c), the public records policy may not: (a) limit the number of public records that the public office will make available to a single person, (b) limit the number of public records that it will make available during a fixed period of time, and (c) establish a fixed period of time before it will respond to a request for inspection or copying of public records, unless that period is less than eight hours. If the public office has established a manual or handbook of its general policies and procedures, the public office should include the public records policy in the manual or handbook. The public office should create a poster describing their public records policy and should post it in a conspicuous place in all public locations of that public office. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) requires the public office to distribute the public records policy to the employee who is the records custodian or records manager or employee who otherwise has custody of the records of that office. The public office should require that employee to acknowledge receipt of the copy of the public records policy.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2) requires a public office shall have a copy of its current records retention schedule at a location readily available to the public.

The Society did not adopt a public records policy or a public records retention schedule. The lack of such a schedule/policy may result in improper destruction of records or misunderstanding with the public of amongst officials when it comes to requests for records.

The Society should ensure that a public records policy and public records retention schedule are adopted, and all applicable Ohio Revised Code requirements are followed.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from officials for this finding.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



RICHWOOD INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

UNION COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 4/23/2024

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov