



State of Mississippi
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
PHIL BRYANT
Auditor

February 22, 2005

Single Audit Management Report

Honorable Lester Spell, Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
P. O. Box 1609
Jackson, Mississippi 39215

Dear Dr. Spell:

In conjunction with our audit of federal assistance received by the State of Mississippi, the Office of the State Auditor has completed its audit of selected federal programs of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce for the year ended June 30, 2004. This audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. The Office of the State Auditor's staff members participating in this engagement included Rob Robertson, Marilyn Purvis, CGFM, and Lucreta Walker.

The fieldwork for audit procedures and tests was completed on January 11, 2005. These procedures and tests cannot and do not provide absolute assurance that all federal legal requirements have been met. In accordance with Section 7-7-211, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), the Office of the State Auditor, when deemed necessary, may conduct additional procedures and tests of transactions for this or other fiscal years to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Internal Control over Compliance

The management of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the major federal programs.

Our consideration of the internal control over compliance would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control 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 noncompliance with applicable requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants that would be material in relation to a major federal program 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 compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Compliance

Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each of its major federal programs is the responsibility of management. We have audited each of the major federal programs for compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in OMB Circular A-133. Our audit fieldwork included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the department's compliance with those requirements and such other procedures as we considered necessary. Based on audit procedures and tests performed, we are pleased to report that no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported by OMB Circular A-133 were noted.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, Members of the Legislature and federal awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce throughout the audit. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Phil Bryant
State Auditor