



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release
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**Office of the State Auditor Releases its
Limited Review of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food**

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today released its Limited Review of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) for the period April 2019 through June 2020. The Office has concluded its limited review of certain aspects of internal control and compliance at UDAF. The Office initiated the review after receiving several reports of concerns about actions taken by various members of UDAF management. The purpose of the review was to assess the validity of non-compliance allegations and to assist UDAF in evaluating its internal control. In addition, the Office reviewed aspects of the Grazing Improvement Program, the Agriculture Redevelopment Loan Program (ARDL), and the Cannabis Growers Program for the period July 2019 through June 2020.

Of primary concern in the Review findings is that control environment weaknesses existed at UDAF during the reviewed period. This report identifies a number of concerns highlighting weakness of UDAF's control environment, which increased the risk of noncompliance and misuse of public funds.

As detailed in the findings in the review report, weaknesses in UDAF's control environment resulted in the following problems:

- Concerns regarding bid selection
- Undisclosed conflicts of interest
- Improper vehicle usage
- Improper travel reimbursements
- Questionable payments to employees and other payroll related concerns
- A questionable hiring decision

This review may be found on the Office's website, auditor.utah.gov. The review is available specifically at: <https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0151K0000041c1mQAA> .

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every 4 years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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