

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEEF COUNCIL**

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2015

State of South Carolina



Office of the State Auditor

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September 11, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, Governor
and
Members of the South Carolina Beef Council
Columbia, South Carolina

This report on the audit of the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, was issued by Love Bailey & Associates, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, under contract with the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Gilbert Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Richard H. Gilbert, Jr., CPA
Deputy State Auditor

RHGjr/cwc

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEEF COUNCIL**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Richard H. Gilbert, Jr., CPA
Deputy State Auditor
State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Beef Council (the "Council") special revenue fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions 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 *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 statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As explained in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Council has not recorded a contingent liability for unfunded pension costs in the financial statements. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board required that the Council recognize their proportionate share of the pension liability as a participant in the South Carolina Retirement System. The effects on the accompanying financial statements for the failure to record the contingent liability has not been determined.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Beef Council special revenue fund as of June 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 1, the Financial Statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Beef Council special revenue fund are intended to present the financial position and results of operations of only that portion of the funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture attributable to the transactions of the Beef Council special revenue funds and do not include any other accounts or funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture or any other department or component unit of the State of South Carolina, and are not intended to present fairly the financial statements and results of operations of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements. The accompanying Full Dollar Accountability Report is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Full Dollar Accountability Report is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relations to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 11, 2015, on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 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 Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Love Bailey & Associates, LLC

Love Bailey & Associates, LLC

Laurens, South Carolina

September 11, 2015

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEEF COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2015**

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 131,661
Account receivables, net	20,358
	<hr/>
Total assets	<u>\$ 152,019</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$ 15,421
Accrued salaries and related benefits	4,003
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	<u>19,424</u>

FUND BALANCE

Spendable - unassigned	<u>132,595</u>
Total fund balance	<u>132,595</u>
	<hr/>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 152,019</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEEF COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
For the year ended June 30, 2015**

REVENUE

Assessments	\$ 215,106
Less, assessments remitted to other states	(21,878)
Less, assessments remitted to Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board	(89,608)
Net Assessment revenue	103,620

EXPENDITURES

Advertising and promotion	19,525
Salaries and benefits	44,630
Board meetings and related costs	6,193
Operating costs	17,154
Total Expenditures	87,502
Excess of revenue over (under) expenditures	16,118
Fund balance, July 1, 2014	116,477
Fund balance, June 30, 2015	\$ 132,595

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – BEEF COUNCIL
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

The South Carolina Cattle and Beef Board was established January 3, 1985, as a commodity board under Section 46-17-190 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1962. The Board approved a name change to the South Carolina Beef Council (also referred as the “South Carolina Department of Agriculture Beef Council” and the “Beef Council” and the “Council”). The commodity council is included as a part of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture is considered part of the State of South Carolina’s primary government and is included in the State of South Carolina’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as such. This is based on guidance provided by GASB Statement 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*. The Council was established for education, promotion and research to strengthen the cattle and beef industry’s position in the marketplace.

The South Carolina Beef Council, whose members are elected by the local producers, is the governing body of the South Carolina Beef Council.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture administers the South Carolina Beef Council. The Council operated as a special revenue fund of the Department of Agriculture. The accompanying financial statements present the financial position and results of operations solely of the South Carolina Beef Council, special revenue fund, and do not include any other funds of the State of South Carolina.

Basis of Presentation and Accounting

The financial statements were prepared using the fund accounting principles per the Government Accounting Standards Board *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*. The accounts of the Beef Council are a special revenue fund of the Department of Agriculture. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in this individual fund based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. All accounts for the Beef Council are reported in the special revenue funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to when revenue and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting also relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The Beef Council is a special revenue fund. Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trust, or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

All special revenue funds of governmental units are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenue is recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets.

Expenditures are recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting generally when the related fund liability is incurred. Expenditure recognition is limited to exclude amounts represented by noncurrent liabilities. Since they do not affect net current assets, such long-term amounts are not recognized as expenditures in special revenue funds.

(Continued)

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES, Continued

Budgetary Controls

The following is a description of the budgetary process of the Beef Council:

Several months prior to the start of the fiscal year, a budget proposal for revenue and expenditures is developed by the executive director (the only employee) of the Beef Council. The proposal is developed through evaluation of historical financial data and on knowledge of future events. The proposal is presented to the Council for both discussion and review.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost if purchased. Capital assets contributed by other State agencies or funds are recorded at the original acquisition cost less accumulated depreciation from the purchase date. Assets donated by other parties are valued at fair market value at the date of gift. The capitalization dollar threshold limit for capital assets is \$5,000, and software is \$100,000. The Council had no capital asset purchases during the year, nor did it own any capital assets at June 30, 2015.

Compensated Absences

Generally all permanent full-time State employees and certain part-time employees scheduled to work at least one-half of the agency's workweek are entitled to accrue and carry forward at calendar year-end a maximum of 180 days sick leave and 45 days annual vacation leave. Upon termination of State employment, employees are entitled to be paid for accumulated unused annual vacation leave up to the maximum of 45 days, but are not entitled to any payment for unused sick leave. The Department calculates the compensated absences liability based on recorded balances of unused leave for which the Department expects to compensate employees through paid time off or cash payments. At June 30, 2014, the Council did not have employees that accrued compensated benefits.

Fund Balances

The GASB issued Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions* (GASB 54) effective for reporting periods after June 15, 2010. The statement establishes fund balance classifications, provides for a hierarchy of spending constraints for spendable resources and requires disclosure of nonspendable and spendable resources.

GASB 54 provides for two major types of fund balances, which are nonspendable and spendable. Nonspendable fund balances are balances that cannot be spent because they are not expected to be converted to cash or they are legally or contractually required to remain intact.

(Continued)

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES, Continued

GASB 54 has provided a hierarchy of spendable fund balances, based on a hierarchy of spending constraints as follows:

Restricted – Fund balances that are constrained by external parties, constitutional provisions, or enabling legislation.

Committed – Fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government from its highest level of decision making authority.

Assigned – Fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government to be used for a particular purpose.

Unassigned – Fund balances that are not constrained for any particular purpose.

At June 30, 2015, all of the Council's fund balances have been classified as unassigned.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenditures and affect disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Pension Liability

During 2015, the Council adopted the provisions of GASB 68 "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – An Amendment of GASB Statement 27". GASB requires that the Council recognize in its financial statements their proportionate share of pension liability as a participant in the South Carolina Retirement System however the Council is administered by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the Council's one employee is included in the South Carolina Department of Agriculture's pension liability. Accordingly, the Board recognizes no contingent liability for unfunded costs associated with participation in the plan. See Note 3 for additional information.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

All deposits of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council are under the control of the State Treasurer who, by law, has sole authority for investing State Funds.

State law requires full collateralization of all State Treasurer bank balances. The State Treasurer must correct any deficiencies in collateral within seven days.

With respect to investments in the State's internal cash management pool, all of the State Treasurer's investments are insured or registered or are investments for which the securities are held by the State or its agent in the State's name. Information pertaining to the reported amounts, fair values, and credit risk of the State Treasurer's investments is disclosed in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina.

NOTE 3 – PENSION PLANS

The one employee of the Council is eligible to participate in a retirement plan through the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Retirement Benefits Division of the South Carolina Public Employee Benefits Authority (PEBA), a public employee retirement system. Generally, all full-time or part-time equivalent State employees in a permanent position are required to participate in and contribute to the SCRS as a condition of employment unless exempted by law as provided in Section 9-1-480 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, or are eligible and elect to participate in the State Optional Retirement Program (ORP). The SCRS plan provides a life-time monthly retirement annuity benefits to eligible members as well as disability, survivor options, annual benefit adjustments, death benefits, and incidental death benefits to eligible employees and retired members.

The Retirement Division maintains five independent defined benefit plans and issues its own publicly available Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which includes financial statements and required supplementary information. A copy of the separately issued CAFR may be obtained by writing to the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority, P.O. Box 11960, Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1960. Furthermore, the Division and the five pension plans are included in the State of South Carolina's CAFR.

Under the SCRS, Class II members are eligible for a full service retirement annuity upon reaching age 65 or completion of 28 years of credited service regardless of age. Employees who first became members of the System after June 30, 2012 are considered Class III members and are eligible for a full service retirement annuity upon reaching age 65 or upon meeting the rule of 90 requirement (i.e., the members age plus the years of service add up to a total of at least 90). The benefit formula for full service retirement annuity effective since July 1, 1989 for the SCRS is 1.82 percent of an employee's average final compensation (AFC) multiplied by the number of years of credited service. For Class II members, AFC is the average annual earnable compensation during 12 consecutive quarters and includes an amount for up to 45 days termination pay at retirement for unused annual leave. For Class III members, AFC is the average annual earnable compensation during 20 consecutive quarters and termination pay for unused annual leave at retirement is not included. Early retirement options with reduced benefits are available as early as age 55 for Class II members and age 60 for Class III members. Class II members are vested for a deferred annuity after five years of earned service. Class III members are vested for a deferred annuity after eight years of earned service. Members qualify for a survivor's benefit upon completion of 15 years of credited service (five years effective January 1, 2002).

Disability annuity benefits are available to Class II members if they have permanent incapacity to perform regular duties of the member's job and they have at least 5 years of earned service (this requirement does not apply if the disability is a result of a job related injury). Class III members can apply for disability annuity benefits provided they have a permanent incapacity to perform the regular duties of the member's job and they have a minimum of eight years of credited service. For disability applications received after December 31, 2013, a member of SCRS will have to be approved for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration in order to be eligible for SCRS disability retirement benefits. An incidental death benefit equal to an employee's annual rate of compensation is payable upon the death of an active employee with a minimum of one year of credited service or to a working retired contributing member.

NOTE 3 – PENSION PLANS, Continued

There is no service requirement for death resulting from actual performance of duties for an active member. For eligible retired members, a lump-sum payment is made to the retiree's beneficiary of up to \$6,000 based on years of service at retirement. TERI participants and retired contributing members are eligible for the increased death benefit equal to their annual salary in lieu of the standard retired member benefit.

Effective January 1, 2001, Section 9-1-2210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws allows employees eligible for service retirement to participate in the Teacher and Employee Retention Incentive (TERI) Program. TERI participants may retire and begin accumulating retirement benefits on a deferred basis without terminating employment for up to five years. Upon termination of employment or at the end of the TERI period, whichever is earlier, participants will begin receiving monthly service retirement benefits which will include any benefit adjustments granted during the TERI period. Because participants are considered retired during the TERI period, they do not earn service credit, and are ineligible for disability retirement benefits. The TERI program will end effective June 30, 2018, and a member's participation may not continue after this date.

Effective July 1, 2014, employees participating in the SCRS were required to contribute 8.00% of all earnable compensation. The employer contribution rate for SCRS was 15.90%. Included in the total SCRS employer contribution rate is a base retirement contribution of 10.75%, .15% for the incidental death program and a 5.00% surcharge that will fund retiree health and dental insurance coverage. The Council's actual contributions to the SCRS for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were approximately \$4,000 per year and equaled the base required retirement contribution rate, excluding surcharge, of 10.75% for 2015, 10.45% for 2014 and 10.45% for 2013. Also, the Council paid employer incidental death program contributions of approximately \$50 per year at the rate of .15% of compensation for the current fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013.

The amounts paid by the Council for pension, incidental death program, and accidental death program contributions are reported as employer contribution expenditures within the applicable functional expenditure categories to which the related salaries are charged.

Article X, Section 16, of the South Carolina Constitution requires that all State-operated retirement systems be funded on a sound actuarial basis. Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, prescribes requirements relating to membership, benefit, and employee/employer contributions for each retirement system. Employee and employer contribution rates to SCRS are actuarially determined. The surcharges to fund retiree health and dental insurance are not part of the actuarially established rates.

While the surcharge to fund retiree health and dental insurance benefits is collected by the Retirement Benefits Division of PEBA, it is remitted to the Insurance Benefits Division of PEBA, which is responsible for administration of retiree health and dental insurance benefits and establishment of the applicable retiree insurance surcharge rate.

(Continued)

NOTE 3 – PENSION PLANS, Continued

At June 30, 2015 the Council reported \$0 for its proportionate share of the net pension liabilities of SCRS. The net pension liability defined of the SCRS defined benefit pension plan was determined based on the July 1, 2013 actuarial valuations, using membership data as of July 1, 2013, projected forward to June 30, 2014, and financial information of the pension trust funds as of June 30, 2014, using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The Council's portion of the net pension liability was based on the Council's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. At June 30, 2014, the Council's SCRS proportion was 0%, which was the same as its portion of the net pension liability measured as of June 30, 2013. The Council is administered by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the Board's one employee is included in the South Carolina Department of Agriculture's pension liability. Accordingly, the Council recognizes no contingent liability for unfunded costs associated with participation in the plan.

NOTE 4 – POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

Plan Description

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and the annual Appropriations Act, the State provides post-employment health and dental and long-term disability benefits to retired State and school district employees and their covered dependents. The Council contributes to the South Carolina Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund (SCRHITF) and the South Carolina Long-Term Disability Insurance Trust Fund (SCLTDITF), cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit postemployment healthcare, and long-term disability plans administered by the Insurance Benefits Division (IB), a part of the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA).

Generally, retirees are eligible for the health and dental benefits if they have established at least ten years of retirement service credit. For new hires beginning employment May 2, 2008 and after, retirees are eligible for benefits if they have established 25 years of service for 100% employer funding and 15 through 24 years of service for 50% employer funding.

Benefits become effective when the former employee retires under a State retirement system. Basic Long-Term Disability (BLTD) benefits are provided to active state, public school district, and participating local government employees approved for disability.

Funding Policies

Section 1-11-710 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, requires these postemployment and long-term disability benefits be funded through annual appropriations by the General Assembly for active employees to the IB and participating retirees to the PEBA, except for the portion funded through the pension surcharge and provided from the other applicable sources of the IB, for its active employees who are not funded by State General Fund appropriations. Employers participating in the RMP are mandated by State statute to contribute at a rate assessed each year by the Office of the State Budget, 5.00% of annual covered payroll for 2015 and 4.92% of annual covered payroll for 2014. The IB sets the employer contribution rate based on a pay-as-you-go basis.

(Continued)

NOTE 4 – POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS, Continued

The Council paid approximately \$2,000 per year applicable to the surcharge included with the employer contribution for retirement benefits for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2014, and 2013. BLTD benefits are funded through a person's premium charged to State agencies, public school districts, and other participating local governments. The monthly premium per active employee paid to IB was \$3.22 for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

Effective May 1, 2008 the State established two trust funds through Act 195 for the purpose of funding and accounting for the employer costs of retiree health and dental insurance benefits and long-term disability insurance benefits. The SCRHITF is primarily funded through the payroll surcharge. Other sources of funding include additional State appropriated dollars, accumulated IB reserves, and income generated from investments. The SCLTDITF is primarily funded through investment income and employer contributions.

A copy of the separately issued financial statement for the benefit plans and the trust funds may be obtained by writing to the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority – Insurance Benefits Division, P.O. Box 11960, Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1960.

NOTE 5 – DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS

Several optional deferred compensation plans are available to State employees and employers of its political subdivisions. The employee of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council does not participate. The multiple-employer plans, created under Internal Revenue Code sections 457, 401(k), and 403(b) are administered by third parties and are not included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. Compensation deferred under the plans is placed in trust for the contributing employee. Employees may withdraw the current value of their contributions when they terminate State employment. Employees may also withdraw the current value of their contributions prior to termination if they meet requirements specified by the applicable plan. The State has no liability for losses under the plans.

NOTE 6 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Beef Council has certain transactions with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and various other state agencies.

Services received at no cost from State agencies include processing certain accounting records and payroll and disbursement processing from the Comptroller General; check preparation, banking functions from the State Treasurer; and legal services from the Attorney General.

Other services received at no cost from various State agencies include retirement plan administration, insurance plans administration, personnel management, procurement services, and other centralized functions.

(Continued)

NOTE 6 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS, Continued

The Department of Agriculture provides to the Council at no cost, office space, personnel and payroll services, record keeping, disbursement processing, insurance coverage and other centralized functions. The amount of 2014 expenditures applicable to these services is not readily determinable.

The Council also had financial transactions with various State agencies during the fiscal year. Certain payments were made to divisions of the State Budget and Control Board for office supplies, telephone, interagency mail, and data processing services. The amounts of 2015 expenditures applicable to related party transactions are not readily determinable.

Effective September 1991, the South Carolina Beef Council, as a Qualified State Beef Council, started remitting a portion of its assessment proceeds to the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Council. The authority for the formation of the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Council was the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (the “Act”), approved on December 23, 1985, by the United States Congress: The “Act” provides for the establishment of a coordinated program of promotion and research designed to strengthen the beef industry’s position in the marketplace, as well as to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for beef and beef products. As provided in the Act, the Secretary of the United State Department of Agriculture (the Secretary”) issued the Beef Promotion and Research Order, effective July 18, 1986, which provides the terms and conditions for the Act’s administration. The Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Council, which was created and approved by the Secretary to administer the Act, consisted of various members who are representatives of the cattle industry in the United States, including importers. Amounts recorded as accounts payable to Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Council at June 30, 2015 is \$8,505.

Traditionally the program is financed exclusively by an assessment of \$1 per head assessment on sales of domestic and imported cattle and beef products however on January 1, 2015 an additional \$0.50 per head assessment was implemented. The assessments are remitted to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council. The Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Council receives approximately one-half of assessment monies and the South Carolina Beef Council retains the remainder.

Annually the Council may make a contribution that is customarily approximately 10% of the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Boar annual assessment amount to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (Formerly the National Live Stock and Meat Board). For the year ended June 30, 2015, the Council elected to make a contribution of \$11,673.

NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council is exposed to various risks of loss and maintains State or commercial insurance coverage for certain risks. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council has not had any claims in the past three years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from coverage in the prior year. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture pays insurance premiums to certain State agencies and commercial insurers to cover risks that may occur in normal operations. The insurers promise to pay to or on behalf of the insured for covered premium losses sustained during the policy period in accord with the insurance policy and benefit program limits. (Continued)

NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT, Continued

Several State funds accumulate assets and the State itself assumes substantially all risks for the following:

1. Claims of covered employees for health and dental insurance benefits (Public Employee Benefit Authority – Insurance Benefits).
2. Claims of covered public employees for long-term disability and group-life insurance benefits (Public Employee Benefit Authority – Insurance Benefits).
3. Claims of covered public employees for workers' compensation insurance benefits (State Accident Fund).
4. Claims of covered public employees for unemployment compensation insurance benefits (Department of Employment and Workforce).

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture and other entities pay premiums to the State's Insurance Reserve Fund (IRF) which issues policies, accumulates assets to cover the risks of loss and pays claims incurred for covered losses related to the following Fund assets, activities, and/or events.

1. Personal property and equipment – Eighty percent of each loss is covered by the IRF. Losses are subject to a \$1,000 deductible.
2. Data processing equipment – Coverage is up to \$100,000 per loss with a \$1,000 deductible.
3. Torts.

The IRF is a self-insurer and purchases reinsurance to obtain certain services and specialized coverage and to limit losses. The IRF's rates are determined actuarially.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture purchases insurance coverage for employee fidelity bond insurance coverage arising from theft or misappropriations. The policy has a \$1,000 deductible with a coverage limit of \$50,000.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council has not recorded any estimated losses or expenditures related to the deductible or policy limits because there is no evidence of asset impairment or other information to indicate a loss should be recorded. All payments for insurance are made by the Department and the Beef Council does not reimburse any of those expenses.

NOTE 8 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through September 11, 2015, which is the date that these financial statements were available to be issued.

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEEF COUNCIL
FULL DOLLAR ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT
Year ended June 30, 2015**

REVENUE

Assessments	\$ 215,106
Less, assessments remitted to other states	(21,878)
Less, assessments remitted to Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board	<u>(89,608)</u>
Net Assessment revenue	<u>103,620</u>

EXPENDITURES

Promotion	15,448
Consumer Information	11,723
Industry Information	4,458
Producer Communication	10,477
Collections	15,714
Board meetings and related costs	5,618
General Administration	<u>24,064</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>87,502</u>
 Excess of revenue over (under) expenditures	 <u><u>\$ 16,118</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT
OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Mr. Richard H. Gilbert, Jr., CPA,
Deputy State Auditor
State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Beef Council (the "Council"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 11, 2015.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council'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. 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 may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council'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 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 or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. Specifically, compliance with the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (the "Act") and the Beef Promotion and Research Order (the "Order") relative to the use of funds collected by the Council, is the responsibility of the Council's management. As part of our audit as of and for the year-ended June 30, 2015, we assessed the risk that noncompliance with the Act and the Order as explained above, could cause the financial statements to be materially misstated.

We concluded that the risk of such material misstatement was sufficiently low and that it was necessary to perform tests of the Council's compliance with the Act and the Order. However, in connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention to indicate that the Council has not complied, in all material respects, with the Act and the Order referred to above.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe the Council failed to comply with the items, in so far as they relate to accounting matters of the Act and the Order relative to the use of funds collected by the Council and with the terms described in Section 1260.181(b)(7) of the Order relative to prohibited uses of funds collected by the Council. However, it should be noted that our audit was not directed primarily towards obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance.

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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Love Bailey & Associates, LLC

Love Bailey & Associates
Laurens, South Carolina
September 11, 2015