

September 9, 1998

The Honorable David M. Beasley, Governor
and
Members of the South Carolina Pork Board
Columbia, South Carolina

This report on the audit of the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Pork Board for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, was issued by Wilkes & Company, 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,

Edgar A. Vaughn, Jr., CPA
State Auditor

EAV/tdc

**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD**

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Mr. Edgar A. Vaughn, Jr., CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board special revenue fund as of June 30, 1998, and the related statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Financial Statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board 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 Pork Board special revenue fund and do not include any other amounts 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 generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board special revenue fund as of June 30, 1998 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Columbia, South Carolina
August 21, 1998

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 1998

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 133,911
Accounts receivable	<u>5,105</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 139,016</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,488
Accrued payroll	<u>2,347</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,835</u>
Fund Equity:	
Fund balance (unreserved)	<u>135,181</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 139,016</u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE

AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

Revenues:	
Assessment proceeds-National Pork Board	\$ 76,739
South Carolina Pork Conference registration fees	2,185
Advertising	<u>1</u>
Total Revenues	<u>78,925</u>
Expenditures:	
Education and research	21,262
Consumer products marketing	33,118
Promotions	18,533
Administration and operations	<u>11,396</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>84,309</u>
Deficit of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(5,384)
Fund Balance - July 1, 1997	<u>140,565</u>
Fund Balance - June 30, 1998	<u><u>\$ 135,181</u></u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE

AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Entity Description

The South Carolina Pork Board was established as a commodity board under Section 46-17-190 of the South Carolina Code of Laws in 1962 and is included as 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 Fund of the South Carolina Pork Board is included in the Financial Statements of the Department of Agriculture. The Board was established for promotion and research to strengthen the pork industry's position in the marketplace.

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

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture administers the South Carolina Pork Board. The Board operates 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 Pork Board 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 South Carolina Pork Board 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 of the South Carolina Pork Board are reported in the special revenue funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to when revenues 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 Pork Board 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.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

All special revenue funds of governmental units are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. All revenues except assessment proceeds from the National Pork Board are recorded when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting 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. They are instead reported as liabilities in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group, which is not presented in the accompanying statement. Such amounts would include accumulated unpaid vacation, sick pay, and other employee amounts.

Budgetary Controls

The following is a description of the budgetary process of the South Carolina Pork Board:

Several months prior to the start of the fiscal year a budget proposal for revenue and expenditures is developed by the executive director of the South Carolina Pork Board. The proposal is developed through evaluation of historical financial data and on knowledge of future events. The proposal is presented to the Board for both discussion and review.

General Fixed Assets and General Long-Term Debt

Any general fixed assets purchased by the Pork Board are recorded as an expenditure in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance when the liability is incurred. Because general fixed assets of the South Carolina Pork Board are accounted for in aggregate with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture the amounts of the Pork Board's general fixed assets are not available. Accounting for general fixed assets and general long term debt is not included in the financial statements of the South Carolina Pork Board special revenue fund. Any financial activity related to these accounts is included in the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

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 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

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

leave for which the Department expects to compensate employees through paid time off or cash payments. The leave liability, inventoried at fiscal year-end current salary costs and the cost of the salary-related benefit payments is recorded in the Department's general long term debt.

The portion of the Department of Agriculture's accrued compensated absences attributable to the Beef Board's employees at June 30, 1998 was \$2,440.

Use of Estimates

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

NOTE 2 - CASH

All deposits of the Board are under control of the State Treasurer who, by law, has sole authority for investing state funds.

The state keeps certain monies in a pooled general deposit account and records each funds equity interest in the pool. The accounts classified as "Cash" in the financial statements include such deposits with the State Treasurer on which earned interest is credited to the General Fund of the State.

State law requires full collateralization of all State Treasurer bank balances. The State Treasurer must correct any deficiencies in collateral within seven days. At June 30, 1998, all State Treasurer bank balances were fully insured or collateralized with securities held by the State or by its agents in the State's name.

NOTE 3 - PENSION PLAN AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Retirement Division of the State Budget and Control Board maintains four 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 Retirement Division, 202 Arbor Lake Drive, Columbia, South Carolina, 29223. Furthermore, the Division and the four pension plans are included in the CAFR of the State of South Carolina.

The one full time employee and one temporary employee of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board is covered by a pension plan through the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Retirement Division, a public employee

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

retirement system. Generally all State employees 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. This plan provides retirement annuity benefits as well as disability, cost of living adjustment, death, and group-life insurance benefits to eligible employees and retirees.

Under SCRS, employees are eligible for a full service retirement annuity upon reaching age 65 or completion of 30 years credited service regardless of age. The benefit formula for full benefits effective since July 1, 1989, for the SCRS is 1.82 percent of an employee's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service. Early retirement options with reduced benefits are available as early as age 55. Employees are vested for a deferred annuity after five years service and qualify for a survivor's benefit upon completion of 15 years credited service. Disability annuity benefits are payable to employees totally and permanently disabled provided they have a minimum of five years credited service. A group-life insurance 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.

Since July 1, 1988, employees participating in the SCRS have been required to contribute 6.0 percent of all compensation. Effective July 1, 1997, the employer contribution rate became 9.466 percent which included a 1.916 percent surcharge to fund retiree health and dental insurance coverage. The Board's actual contributions to the SCRS for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998 were \$1,639, and equaled the required contributions of 7.55 percent (excluding the surcharge) for the year. Employer contributions for fiscal year 1997 were \$1,384 and for fiscal year 1996 were \$1,648. Also, the Board paid employer group-life insurance contributions of \$33 in the current fiscal year at the rate of .15 percent of compensation.

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, benefits, and employee/employer contributions for each pension plan. 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. Annual benefits, payable monthly for life, are based on length of service and on average final compensation (an annualized average of the employee's highest 12 consecutive quarters of compensation).

The System does not make separate measurements of assets and pension liabilities for individual employers. Under Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the Board's liability under the plan is limited to the amounts of contributions (stated as a percentage of covered payroll) established by the State Budget and Control Board. Therefore, the Board's liability under the pension plan is limited to the contribution requirements for the applicable year. Accordingly, the Board recognizes no contingent liability for unfunded costs associated with participation in the plan.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

At retirement, employees participating in the SCRS receive additional service credit (at a rate of 20 days equals one month of service) for up to 90 days for accumulated unused sick leave.

Post-Retirement and Other Employee Benefits

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and the annual Appropriation Act, the State of South Carolina provides certain health care, dental, and life insurance benefits to active and certain retired State employees and certain surviving dependents of retirees. All permanent full-time employees of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board are eligible to receive these benefits. The State provides post employment health and dental benefits to employees who retire from State service or who terminated with at least 20 years of State service who meet one or more of the eligibility requirement, such as age, length of service, and hire date. Generally those who retire must have at least 10 years of retirement service credit to qualify for State-funded benefits. Benefits are effective at date of retirement when the employee is eligible for retirement benefits. These benefits are provided through the Board's applicable revenue sources for active employees and the State Budget and Control Board for all participating State retirees except the portion funded through the pension surcharge and provided from other applicable revenue sources of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board for its active employees who are not funded by State General Fund appropriations. The State finances health and dental plan benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. Currently, approximately 18,500 State retirees meet these eligibility requirements.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board recorded employer contribution expenses for these insurance benefits for active employees in the amount of \$1,666 for the year ended June 30, 1998. As discussed above, the Board paid \$416 applicable to the surcharge included with the employer contributions for retirement benefits. These amounts were remitted to the South Carolina Retirement Systems for distribution to the Division of Insurance Services for retiree health and dental insurance benefits.

Information regarding the cost of insurance benefits applicable to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board retirees is not available. By State law, the Board has no liability for retirement benefits. Accordingly, the cost of providing these benefits for retirees is not included in the accompanying financial statements.

In addition, the State General Assembly periodically directs the Retirement Systems to pay supplemental (cost of living) increases to retirees. Such increases are primarily funded from system's earnings; however, a portion of the required amount is appropriated from the State General Fund annually for the SCRS benefits.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

NOTE 4 - 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 - Pork Board does not participate. The multiple-employer plans, created under Internal Revenue Code Sections 457, 401(k), and 403(b) are accounted for as agency funds of the State and included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. Employees may also withdraw contributions prior to termination if they meet requirements specified by the applicable plan.

Compensation deferred under the Section 401(k) and 403(b) plans is placed in trust for the contributing employee. The State has no liability for losses under the plans. Under the Section 457 plan, all deferred compensation plan amounts and earnings remain assets of the employer (the State) subject to the claims of the employer's general creditors, one of whom is the employee participant. It is unlikely, however, that the State would ever use plan assets to satisfy claims of the State's general creditors. The portion of assets of the Section 457 plan to which the State has access is disclosed in its financial report.

NOTE 5 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Pork Board has significant transactions with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and various other state agencies.

Services received at no cost from State agencies include 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 the various divisions of the State Budget and Control Board include retirement plan administration, insurance plans administration, personnel management, procurement services, property management and record keeping; and other centralized functions.

The South Carolina Pork Board had financial transactions with various State agencies during the fiscal year. Significant payments were made to divisions of the State Budget and Control Board for retirement and insurance plans contributions, office supplies, printing, telephone, interagency mail, and data processing services. The amounts of 1997-1998 expenditures applicable to related party transactions are not readily available.

The Department of Agriculture provides to the Board at no cost, office space, personnel and payroll services, clerical help, record keeping, disbursement processing, insurance coverage through the State Insurance Reserve Fund and other centralized

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

functions. The amount of 1998 expenditures applicable to these services is not readily determinable.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

The Executive Director of the Pork Board is a marketing specialist with the Department of Agriculture and performs various other duties within the Department of Agriculture in addition to serving the SC Pork Board. All salaries and benefits of this employee are paid by the Department of Agriculture. The value of the services provided by this employee to the SC Pork Board by the Department of Agriculture is not readily determinable.

The South Carolina Pork Board provided no services free of charge to other State agencies during the fiscal year.

The activities of the South Carolina Pork Board are controlled by the National Pork Board as of November 1986. This was provided for in the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 4801-4819) (Pork Act).

This Act provided that the National Pork Board would be responsible to establish and conduct research and studies with the respect to the sale, distribution, marketing and utilization of pork and pork products. The National Pork Board shall distribute funds as established in the Pork Act received from assessments attributable to animals produced in the State. All assessments on pork sales in the State of South Carolina are collected by the National Pork Board, who in turn sends a portion back to the South Carolina Pork Board.

The Board uses a separate non state controlled bank account for the South Carolina Pork Conference to deposit exhibit fees and other miscellaneous revenues of the annual pork conference, and other functions. Registration fees are deposited to the Board's account and some of the expenditures for the conference are paid by the Board as educational expenditures. The transactions included in the pork conference account are not recorded by the Board and are not included in these statements. The Board at its discretion provided certain services related to the annual Pork Conference at no charge. The value of these services is not readily determinable. A summary of transactions for the Pork Conference Account for the year ended June 30, 1998 are as follows:

	<u>Pork Board Account</u>	<u>Pork Conference Account</u>
Deposits	\$ 2,186	\$ 18,944
Expenditures	\$ 3,979	\$ 13,059

Included in the expenditures of the Pork Conference account is \$589 paid to the National Pork Producers Council for an assessment to be paid from non checkoff funds. Checkoff funds are those funds received under the Federal Marketing Order that must be spent in compliance with the order for pork research, promotion and education. Non-checkoff are those funds generated by other activities that are not regulated by the Federal Marketing Order. For this reason, these groups of funds are separately maintained and administered.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

The administration of the non-checkoff account is not the responsibility of the South Carolina Pork Board. The group that administers the non-checkoff account is comprised of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Pork Board and one pork producer that has no affiliation with the South Carolina Pork Board. The non-checkoff funds are generated by exhibits and the trade show portion of the annual Pork Conference. These funds are deposited into the non-checkoff account and expenditures related to this portion of the conference are paid from the non-checkoff account. The revenues and expenditures of this account are disclosed due to the related party transactions involved.

The South Carolina Pork Board is responsible for the education portion of the Pork Conference. The registration fees for the seminars are deposited into the state controlled bank account and the expenditures for this portion of the program are paid as an allowable expenditure from the checkoff funds.

The contribution made to the National Pork Producers Council is made as a voluntary contribution from non-checkoff funds to support the non-checkoff activities of the National Pork Producers Council. The Pork Conference account was not audited.

NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board 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 - Pork Board. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board 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 risk 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. 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 (Office of Insurance Services); and
2. Claims of covered public employees for long-term disability and group-life insurance benefits (Office of Insurance Services).
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 (Employment Security Commission).

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
PORK BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture and other entities pay premiums to the states Insurance Reserve Fund (IRF) which issues policies, accumulate 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 \$250 deductible.
2. Data processing equipment - Coverage is up to \$100,000 per loss with a \$250 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.

State agencies are the primary participants in the State's Health and Disability Insurance Fund and in the IRF.

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 \$25,000.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board 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 to the IRF and for fidelity coverage are made by the Department and the Pork Board does not reimburse any of these expenses.

COMPLIANCE LETTER

Mr. Edgar A. Vaughn, Jr., CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited the balance sheet of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board special revenue fund for the year ended June 30, 1998, and the related statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year then ended. Our audit was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board was not in compliance with Section 1230.74 of the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Order Final Rule relating to the use of checkoff funds for the purpose of influencing legislation. However, it should be noted that our audit was not directed primarily towards obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance.

Columbia, South Carolina
August 21, 1998

COMPLIANCE LETTER

Mr. Edgar A. Vaughn, Jr., CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

In connection with our audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 1998, we noted that there were no invested funds held by the South Carolina Pork Board. We also reviewed the Agriculture Marketing Service's (AMS) Investment Policies for Commodity Programs, dated December 1987.

In connection with our audit, since the South Carolina Pork Board does not hold invested funds nor does it invest any funds, nothing would have come to our attention to indicate that the South Carolina Pork Board special revenue fund was not in compliance with AMS policies regulating investments.

Columbia, South Carolina
August 21, 1998

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

South Carolina Department of Agriculture -
Pork Board
Board of Directors
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board for the year ended June 30, 1997, and have issued our report thereon dated September 23, 1997. In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board, we considered its internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. However, we noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

The report is intended solely for the use of management, the members of the Board of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Pork Board and the National Pork Board and should not be used for any other purpose.

Columbia, South Carolina
September 23, 1997