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AUDITOR GENERAL

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

WILLIAM THOMSON
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

November 24, 2003

The Honorable Robert Blendu, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable John Huppenthal, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Senator Blendu and Representative Huppenthal:

Our Office has recently completed a 30-month followup of the Department of Agriculture—Pest Exclusion and Management Program regarding the implementation status of the 8 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the performance audit report released in September 2000 (Auditor General Report No. 00-13). As the attached grid indicates:

- 5 of the 8 recommendations have been implemented;
- 1 of the 8 recommendations is in the process of being implemented; and
- 2 of the 8 recommendations, both of which require legislative action, have not been implemented.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations resulting from the September 2000 performance audit.

Sincerely,

Debbie Davenport
Auditor General

Attachment

cc: Mr. Donald Butler, Director
Department of Agriculture

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pest Exclusion and Management Program
30-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 00-13

FINDING I: Port-of-Entry Inspections Help State Avoid Costly Pest Infestations

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>1. The Department should create new port-of-entry inspector positions and assign these new inspector positions to high-traffic ports not currently covered by the Department, such as the Kingman and Topock ports. The Department should consider creating these positions by reallocating some of the staff positions saved or realized from centralizing its licensing functions.</p>	<p>Implemented at 12 months</p>	
<p>2. The Department should continue working with the Department of Transportation to supplement port inspection activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing training to the Department of Transportation’s port inspectors and mobile enforcement teams; and b. Participating on the Department of Transportation’s mobile enforcement teams when time and resources allow. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implemented at 12 months</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implemented at 6 months</p>	

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pest Exclusion and Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 00-13

FINDING I: Port-of-Entry Inspections Help State Avoid Costly Pest Infestations (Concl'd)

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>3. The Department should continue working with Arizona's PrePass steering committee to develop a formal policy that trucking companies hauling agricultural commodities 90 percent of the time are not allowed to participate in PrePass.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Implemented at 24 months</p>	

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pest Exclusion and Management Program
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FINDING II: Current Fees May Not Support Cost To Issue Phyto-Sanitary Certificates

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>1. The Department should continue with its efforts to identify its total costs for issuing interstate and federal phyto-sanitary certificates, respectively, by applying the federal cost formula in 7 Code of Federal Regulations §354.3.</p>	<p>Implemented at 24 months</p>	
<p>2. Once the Department has determined its costs, the Legislature should consider granting statutory authority to the Department to set fees in administrative rule not to exceed a maximum amount determined by the Legislature for issuing interstate phyto-sanitary certificates. The Legislature might also consider granting specific authority to assess separate mileage and/or hourly labor fees.</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>Legislation has not been proposed to allow the Department to establish fees for issuing interstate phyto-sanitary certificates in administrative rule.</p>
<p>3. If the Department receives statutory authority, it should establish fees for issuing interstate phyto-sanitary certificates in administrative rules.</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>See comment for Recommendation No. 2.</p>

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FINDING II: Current Fees May Not Support Cost To Issue Phyto-Sanitary Certificates (Concl'd)

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
4. If the Department determines that it does not consistently recover its costs, the Department should revise its fees for issuing federal phyto-sanitary certificates.	Implementation in Process	