

News Release
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Agriculture Department cooperating with requested audit and investigation

Following today's announcement that the West Virginia Legislative Auditor's office has been directed to turn over findings from an audit being conducted on the Department of Agriculture to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Agriculture Commissioner Walt Helmick issued the following statement.

"Upon being sworn into office as Agriculture Commissioner last January one of my first official acts was to request an audit of the agency," Commissioner Helmick said. "We have recently been made aware that some accounting and management practices from the previous administration have been called into question and that Senate President Jeff Kessler and House Speaker Tim Miley have requested that those findings be turned over to the U.S. Attorney."

Commissioner Helmick went on to say that "we support that decision 100 percent and the Agriculture Department will do whatever is needed to assist in this investigation."

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs, as mandated by state law. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials in West Virginia. For more information, visit www.wvagriculture.org.