

**News Release**  
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**AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER WALT HELMICK RESPONDS TO FINDINGS FROM AUDIT**

“Upon taking office last year one of my first official acts, as I had promised to the citizens of West Virginia, was to request a complete audit of the Agriculture Department. That audit has now been released by the Legislative Auditor’s office and we have reviewed the results and have acknowledged those findings and recommendations.”

“Many of the audit recommendations have already been addressed by our executive staff and division directors, and we are working diligently and moving forward to make sure that all operations of the Agriculture Department are in full compliance with the policies and guidelines that have been set forth.”

“Again, I want to assure all West Virginians that the Agriculture Department intends to operate with sound, proven business practices that includes an emphasis on accountability at all levels.”

“Opportunities for Agriculture to provide West Virginia with a significant economic boost have never been greater than they are today. In order for us to capitalize on these opportunities our department must function in the most efficient and effective manner as possible. That’s what we are striving to accomplish and we will succeed. It’s a new day for Agriculture in West Virginia.”