TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Fiscal Year 2019 Internal Audit Annual Report

Internal Audit Division



Texas Department of Agriculture | Commissioner Sid Miller November 2019



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

November 1, 2019

Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy State Auditor's Office Legislative Budget Board

Attached is the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) Internal Audit Division annual report. This report provides information on the Internal Audit activities from the last reporting date of September 2018 thru the fiscal year end of August 2019. It is also submitted to meet the annual reporting requirement of the Texas Internal Auditing Act (Government Code, Chapter 2102.009 and Texas Government Code, Sections 2102.016 and 2102.0091).

Audit work completed during the last fiscal year focused on compliance with laws and regulations, efficiency and effectiveness, and information security and data integrity. Recommendations, when made, focused on strengthening controls, and enhancing the accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the agency's operations. The Internal Audit Division continues to focus on providing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes within the agency.

Please contact me at (512) 463-8251 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Zoi Kondis, CIA, CISA, CRMA Director of Internal Audit

Attachment

TEXASAGRICULTURE.GOV

Texas Department of Agriculture Fiscal Year 2019 Internal Audit Annual Report

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I. <u>Compliance With Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015:</u> <u>Posting the Internal Audit Plan, Internal Audit Annual Report, and Other Audit</u> <u>Information on Internet Website</u>

Section 2102.015 of the Internal Auditing Act requires state agencies and institutions of higher education to post agency internal audit plans and internal audit annual reports on the agency's website within 30 days of approval. Agencies are also required to update the web page to include: a) a detailed summary of the weaknesses, deficiencies, wrongdoings, or other concerns raised by the audit plan or annual report and b) a summary of the actions taken to address concerns, if any, that are raised by the audit plan or annual report.

The Internal Audit Division will ensure compliance to the code by posting the approved fiscal year 2020 audit plan and the fiscal year 2019 internal audit annual report to the agency's website within 30 days of their approval. These reports can be accessed by navigating from TDA's home page to About Agency, selecting TDA Divisions, and then selecting the Office of Internal Audit (<u>http://www.texasagriculture.gov/About/TDADivisions.aspx</u>).

We have provided a summary of actions taken by the agency to address any concerns that are raised by the audit plan or annual report for Fiscal Year 2019 in the attached Appendix A.

II. Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2019

Report/ Project #	Audit Title	Initial Objective(s)	Status / Report Date
17.04.1	Audit of Human Resources Management	Review human resources management processes to identify non-compliance to strategic operational policies and procedures	October 2019
17.04.2	Audit of Human Resources Information Technology	Assess the effectiveness of system access controls, and controls for changes to the employee master file for Human Resources applications.	October 2019
19.01	Metrology Lab	Review of Metrology Lab high risk area processes and controls for compliance with agency, state and federal rules and regulations and best practices.	In Progress
19.05	Audit of Completed Management Actions	Review completed actions and determine if management has sufficiently addressed the risks identified for the IT Governance Audit.	Report to be released in November
19.06	Receipt Payment Processing	Evaluate TDA payment processing to include: 1) identification of payment flows including accounts and programs, lockboxes, credit card processing, 2) evaluation of suspense account clearing, 3) receipts payment reconciliations to program transactions.	In Progress

Deviations from the Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Plan

The 2019 Audit Plan was amended as necessary to accommodate agency turnover, training, external audit and oversight activities, and changes to the agency's priorities and operations.

- The Audit of Human Resources Management initiated in FY18 and completed in 2019 was split into two audits:
 - 1) Audit of Human Resources Management and
 - 2) Audit of Human Resources Information Technology.

<u>Compliance to Texas Government Code, Section 2102.005(b)</u>

To ensure compliance with contract processes and controls for monitoring agency contracts, according to Texas Government Code, Section 2102.005(b) Internal Audit (IA) utilizes the following methodologies:

- 1. IA considers the risk of non-compliance associated with the contracting process and monitoring, throughout the risk assessment process.
- 2. For selected audits, IA adds a contract compliance component to the review.
- 3. In addition to the traditional audit process, IA is available to provide consulting services involving a review of controls, specific areas or specific contracts to any of the Divisions.

III. Consulting Services and Non-Audit Services Completed

The Internal Audit Division did not conduct agreed upon consulting services during fiscal year 2019.

In addition to planned audits and consulting and non-audit services, the following administrative activities were also performed during fiscal year 2019:

- Conducted the annual risk assessment using a risk-based methodology, which included gathering and analyzing information from questionnaires, internal control documents, and interviews.
- Developed the audit plan and prepared the Internal Audit Annual Report, as required by the Texas Internal Auditing Act.
- Tracked outstanding internal and external audit findings and recommendations, and reported implementation status internally.
- Other agency special projects
- Consult regarding TAC 202 security requirements
- Administered Internal Fraud Prevention Hotline programs.
- Acted as liaison for external audits and oversight activities.

IV. External Quality Assurance Review

An external quality assurance review was performed in July and August 2016 by Honkamp, Krueger & Co, PC, CPAs and Business Consultants. The review assessed compliance with The Texas Internal Auditing Act (Tex. Gov't. Code Chapter 2102), the Institute of Internal Auditors *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*, and U.S. General Accounting Office *Government Auditing Standards*. The final report was issued in September 1, 2016 (FY17). We have provided a copy of the report executive summary in Appendix B and our next quality assurance review is planned for FY20. The following opinion was reported to Executive Management:

"IIA Standards - Based on our work, the IAD generally conforms; however we did identify process enhancement opportunities included in Appendix A to the report. Based on the information received and evaluated during this external quality assurance review, we have assigned the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Internal Audit Division a rating of generally conforms with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*, Code of Ethics and Definition of Internal Auditing. The "generally confirms" rating, which is the highest of the three possible ratings means that an internal audit activity has a charter, policies, and processes that are judged to be in accordance with the standards in all material respects, but some opportunities for improvement may exist. "

"GAGAS – No conformance observations were identified. Based on the information received and evaluated during this external quality assurance review, we have assigned the TDA Internal Audit Division a rating of "pass" for GAGAS. The "pass" rating, which is the highest of the three possible GAGAS ratings, means that policies, procedures and practices are in place to implement the Standards and requirements necessary for ensuring independence, objectivity, and proficiency of the internal audit function."

"TIAA requirements – Other than the observations related to IIA Standards, no other observations were identified during our work. Based on the information received and evaluated during this external quality assurance review, the TDA Internal Audit Division complies with the Texas Internal Auditing Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 2102)."

The report also indicated that " IAD is seen as one of the key cornerstones of Texas Department of Agriculture's corporate governance, as evidenced by interviews, surveys, document reviews, and observations. " And also stated "Texas Department of Agriculture's IAD has demonstrated a commitment to quality, successful leadership practices, and maintaining an internal auditor's mindset for professionalism. Our assessment noted Texas Department of Agriculture's IAD has developed and implemented a methodology, a set of policies & procedures, and built a team of experienced auditors based upon achieving the department's mandate. Evaluation of the internal audit processes and related audit work papers evidenced that Texas Department of Agriculture's IAD takes this role seriously and provides value to the organization as expected. "

V. <u>Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2020</u>

A risk-based methodology was used to prioritize audit coverage for fiscal year 2020 and ensure timely review of the highest risk areas. In addition, to fulfill the need to assess IT related risks, we documented key applications used by each of the Divisions and business units to better understand the application inventory, critical applications and project plans. Agency operations were analyzed based on multiple risk factors including: operating budget, significant changes in organizational structure, information systems complexity, prior audits and findings, executive/legislative interest, strategic priority, contract risks and potential for fraud. Input from key senior management regarding high risk areas was also incorporated into the analysis. This information was then used to determine the likelihood and impact of select risk factors, and an overall risk score was developed.

Planned audit projects for fiscal year 2020 will continue to focus on the highest risk areas as identified through TDA's risk assessment process. Each audit will also consider tests of select general and application controls in accordance with state and agency information security standards.

Audit Title	Area / Initial Objective(s)	Projected Hours
Metrology Lab A/ B/ C/	Review of Metrology Lab high risk area processes and controls for compliance with agency, state and federal rules and regulations and best practices.	400
Audit of Completed Management Actions for IT Governance	Review completed actions and determine if management has sufficiently addressed the risks identified for the IT Governance Audit.	100
Audit of Completed Management Actions for CDBG	Review completed actions and determine if management has sufficiently addressed the risks identified for the IT Governance Audit.	400
Receipt Payment Processing – Regions A/ B/	Evaluate TDA payment processing at the Regions to include: 1) identification of payment flows including accounts and programs, lockboxes, credit card processing, 2) receipts payment reconciliations to program transactions.	1,000
Receipt Payment Processing – Headquarters A/ B/	Evaluate TDA payment processing by Finance & IT to include: 1) identification of all payment flows including accounts and programs, lockboxes, credit card processing, 2) evaluation of suspense account clearing, 3) receipts payment reconciliations to program transactions and 4) Information Technology General Controls	1,000
Audit of Grant Management A/ B/ C/	Evaluate selected grant (or grants) for compliance with applicable rules and regulations, and to determine the effectiveness of grant controls. (this audit will be carry forward to the next year)	300
External Quality Assurance Review (Peer Review) Self-Assessment and preparation		
Perform activities as requested by the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) and Generally Accepted Government Audit Standards (GAGAS) in compliance with the Texas Internal Audit Act.		

Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2020

Audit Title	Area / Initial Objective(s)	Projected Hours	
	Follow-up on Prior Audits		
Assess the implementation status of corrective actions taken in response to prior internal and external audit findings and recommendations.			
	Risk Assessment, Audit Plan and Annual Report		
Prepare Risk As	ssessment, Internal Audit Plan and Internal Audit Annual Report.	600	
Fraud Hotline Admin, Consulting Services and Special Projects			
-	uested by management throughout the year, as permitted by internal audit exas Internal Audit Act. These activities may address governance, risk management, or control issues.	200	
External Audit Coordinator			
Act as a liaison for external audit activities, providing a single point of contact for all audits of TDA by oversight entities. Internal Audit assists management in coordinating TDA and external auditor interactions to ensure both parties receive accurate and timely information and feedback.			
	Total	4850	

A/ the applicable information technology risks related to Title 1, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 202, Information Security Standards, and

B/ Benefits proportionality, expenditure transfers, capital budget controls, or any other limitation or restriction in the General Appropriations Act.

C/ Contract management and other requirements

* All Projections based on full staffing.

Additional areas that ranked high, which were not included in the fiscal year 2019 audit plan are listed below:

- 1. Financial Services, Accounting / Accounts Payable
- 2. Revenue / Licensing
- 3. Information Technology, Systems and Applications
- 4. Hiring and Employee Processing (recently audited)
- 5. Reporting LBB Measures

Risk Assessment Process



Õ information from TDA staff.

FY2019 Internal Audit Annual Report

- Based on input from

Commissioner, Deputy

Commissioner and select TDA

personnel, finalized audit plan

and obtained formal approval.

VI. <u>External Audit Services Procured in Fiscal Year 2019</u>

The Internal Audit Division did not directly procure external audit services in fiscal year 2019. The Texas Department of Agriculture did procure the following audit services during the fiscal year 2019:

• Texas Agricultural Finance Authority Annual Financial Statements

VII. <u>Reporting Suspected Fraud and Abuse</u>

TDA has taken the following actions to implement the requirements of:

• Fraud Reporting. Texas General Appropriations Act, 85th Legislature, Article IX, Section 7.09

The TDA Fraud Prevention Program includes information about reporting to the state auditor money that may have been lost, misappropriated, or misused, or other fraudulent or unlawful conduct involving any money received from the state. TDA posted the following information on the Contact Us link on the home page of the agency's website:

Fraud Prevention Program

The purpose of the TDA Fraud Prevention Program is to establish and coordinate an agency wide program to prevent, detect and investigate fraud, illegal use and abuse of state resources by TDA employees, vendors or contractors.

Fraud@TexasAgriculture.gov

(512) 475-3423 or 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 (1-866-537-2834)

Report suspected fraud involving state funds to:

State Auditor's Office Website for Fraud Reporting Telephone hotline: 1-800-TX-AUDIT

TDA's employee handbook contains a section dedicated to the Fraud Prevention Program along with the TDA Ethics Policy. The Fraud Prevention Program includes the Commissioner's Letter, the Fraud Prevention Charter and the Fraud Prevention Program details. Each Fraud Prevention document including the Charter states "it is the responsibility of every TDA employee to prevent, detect and report all instances of fraud, abuse of state resources, or illegal activities." In addition, TDA's Ethics policy mandates "all TDA employees must report any possible unethical or illegal act or violation of any ethical or legal regulation or policy to the Ethics Officer and/or the General Counsel."

• <u>Reporting Requirements.</u> Texas Government Code, Section 321.022

The TDA Fraud Prevention Program includes the requirements of this section. The Ethics Officer and Internal Audit, when necessary, are responsible for investigating all reported

incidents of suspected or actual fraud, and illegal use or abuse of state resources. If an investigation concludes there is reasonable cause to believe inappropriate actions have occurred, a report is issued to the Deputy Commissioner and the SAO is notified, as appropriate.

The Chief Ethics Officer and Internal Audit coordinate to ensure all State Auditor's Office (SAO) fraud website or hotline referrals are handled appropriately. The Chief Ethics Officer or Internal Audit provides the results of the investigation to SAO and works to resolve any issues.

Appendix A: Summary of Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Recommendations Implementation Status

Project	Finding / Recommendation and Management	G LL *
Number	Response	Status *
IT GOV 16.07 Audit of IT Governance - Executive Oversight Issued March 2018	Observation No. II.1 - TDA does not have a formal governance body to identify risks and other information technology (IT) issues facing the agency.Report Recommendation: TDA should establish a formal IT governance oversight body to: 1. Improve collaboration and negotiation between Program Managers, 2. Promote understanding about how the agency's limited IT resources are prioritized and allocated, 3. Promote an understanding about IT related risks and mitigation strategies, 4. Increase awareness about potential opportunities available to departments, and to 5. Improve transparency and accountability.Management Response: Management agrees with the auditor's observations. TDA understands the importance of a formal governance body to oversee IT issues and the strategic initiatives of the agency and will implement an IT 	Substantially Implemented
IT GOV 16.07 Audit of IT Governance - Executive Oversight Issued March 2018	Observation No. II.2 - TDA does not have an implementation plan and monitoring process to address outstanding high risk security findings.Report Recommendation: The Information Resources Manager (IRM) and Information Security Officer (ISO) should: 1. Establish an implementation plan and monitoring process to remediate all known high risk security findings. 2. Present periodic updates, at least quarterly, to the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners regarding progress in remediating these risks.Management Response: Management agrees with the auditor's observations. TDA has developed a security plan to address the high risk security findings. Additionally, TDA will begin tracking the progress of the security plan implementation on a quarterly basis based on the input from the IRM and ISO.	Incomplete / Ongoing

Project Number	Finding / Recommendation and Management Response	Status *
	The TDA security plan implementation update will be scheduled in June 2018 as part of the IT Governance Board agenda.	
IT GOV 16.07 Audit of IT Governance - Executive Oversight Issued March 2018	Observation No. III.1 - The agency's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has not been consistently reviewed, updated and approved since its inception in 2014.Report Recommendation: Executive Management should: 1. Make COOP and Disaster Recovery Planning (DRP) a priority. 2. Formally designate a single executive to sponsor the implementation of TDA's COOP and DRP plans. 3. Formally designate a project manager who has adequate authority over all of TDA's various divisions and service areas, including the IT Department to implement and execute these plans. 4. Institute a scheduled program of annual COOP plan updates. 5. Complete a full COOP and DRP plan review including: a) revised business impact analysis, b) updated roles and responsibilities, and c) updated recovery objectives and restoration priorities. All of these should be completed within the next year. 6. Review and update job descriptions for individuals who perform the various COOP tasks such as the Continuity Management Team Leader, the Business Continuity Coordinator, etc.Management Response: Management agrees with the auditor's observation. To address concerns relating to the COOP Plan and emergency management, an agency organizational change was undertaken to create a Coordinator for Emergency Management and Business Continuity (CEMBC) position (hired in December 2017). After assuming the CEMBC position, the CEMBC 	Substantially Implemented

Project Number	Finding / Recommendation and Management Response	Status *
	Long Term action: The CEMBC will work with agency management to complete the updated COOP, appendices and BIA with executive approval by July 2018.	
IT GOV 16.07 Audit of IT Governance - Executive Oversight Issued March 2018	Observation No. III.2 - TDA has not developed a program of annual COOP plan testing.Report Recommendation: The Executive Management should: 1. Make COOP and DRP planning a priority. 2. Formally designate a single executive to sponsor the implementation of TDA's COOP and DRP plans. 3. Formally designate a project manager to execute TDA's COOP and DRP plans, who has adequate authority over all of TDA's various divisions and service areas, including the IT Department. 4. Review and document responsibilities of COOP participants and update job descriptions for individuals who perform any COOP related tasks. Some examples would include COOP plan maintenance, testing, training, etc. 5. Institute a scheduled program of annual COOP plan testing.Management Response: Management agrees with the auditor's observations. The Coordinator for Emergency Management and Business Continuity (CEMBC) will work with agency staff and SORM to adopt a relevant annual COOP plan testing program. The CEMBC will finalize the testing program by July 2018.	Incomplete / Ongoing
IT GOV 16.07 Audit of IT Governance - Executive Oversight Issued March 2018	Observation No. III.3 - TDA has not developed a program of annual COOP plan training.Report Recommendation: The Executive Management should: 1. Make COOP and DRP planning a priority. 2. Formally designate a single executive to sponsor the implementation of TDA's COOP and DRP plans. 3. Formally designate a project manager to execute TDA's COOP and DRP plans, who has adequate authority over all of TDA's various divisions and service areas, including the IT Department. 4. Review and document responsibilities of COOP participants and update job descriptions for individuals who perform any COOP related tasks.	Incomplete / Ongoing

Project	Finding / Recommendation and Management	Status *
Number	Response	Status
	Some examples would include participants involved in COOP plan maintenance, testing, training, etc. 5. Institute a scheduled program of annual COOP plan training.	
	Management Response: Management agrees with the auditor's observations. The Coordinator for Emergency Management and Business Continuity (CEMBC) will work with agency staff and SORM to adopt a relevant annual COOP plan training program. The CEMBC will finalize the training program by July 2018.	
	Observation No. III.4 - TDA does not have a current written disaster recovery plan (DRP) and has not performed appual testing of the	
IT GOV 16.07 Audit of IT Governance - Executive Oversight Issued March 2018	 and has not performed annual testing of the plan. Report Recommendation: The Executive Management should: Make COOP and DRP planning a priority. Formally designate a single executive to sponsor the implementation of TDA's COOP and DRP plans. Formally designate a project manager to execute TDA's COOP and DRP plans, who has adequate authority over all of TDA's various divisions and service areas, including the IT Department. Oversee the creation of the agency's written DRP plan. Review and document responsibilities of DRP participants and update job descriptions for individuals who perform any DRP related tasks. Some examples would include DRP plan creation, maintenance, testing, training, etc. Institute a scheduled program of annual DRP testing and training. 	DRP Substantially Implemented All other actions Incomplete / Ongoing
	Management Response: Management agrees with the auditor's observations. The TDA IRM and CEMBC will coordinate work with the designated IT staff to develop, document, and adopt a relevant written Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) which aligns to the COOP plan and complies with the security control standards established by 1 TAC §202.26. The IRM and CEMBC will review and approve the DRP plan, including training and testing in coordination with the COOP plan by July 2018.	

* The Implementation Statuses above were according to Management as of August 31, 2019.

The definitions of the Implementation Statuses are as follows:

- Fully Implemented: Successful development and use of a process, system, or policy to implement a prior recommendation
- Substantially Implemented: Successful development but inconsistent use of a process, system, or policy to implement a prior recommendation
- Incomplete / Ongoing: Ongoing development of a process, system or policy to address a prior recommendation
- Not Implemented: Lack of a formal process, system, or policy to address a prior recommendation

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Appendix B: External Quality Assurance Review Certification



Conformity Evaluation

Listed below is our overall evaluation of the IAD's conformity with these Standards and requirements:

IIA Standards – Based on our work, the IAD generally conforms; however, we did identify process enhancement opportunities included in appendix A to the report.

Based on the information received and evaluated during this external quality assurance review, we have assigned the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Internal Audit Division generally conforms with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*, Code of Ethics and Definition of Internal Auditing. The "generally conforms" rating, which is the highest of the three possible IIA ratings, means that an internal audit activity has a charter, policies, and processes that are judged to be in accordance with the Standards in all material respects, but some opportunities for improvement may exist.

GAGAS - No conformance observations were identified.

Based on the information received and evaluated during this external quality assurance review, we have assigned the TDA Internal Audit Division a rating of "pass" for GAGAS. The "pass" rating, which is the highest of the three possible GAGAS ratings, means that policies, procedures and practices are in place to implement the Standards and requirements necessary for ensuring independence, objectivity, and proficiency of the internal audit function.

TIAA requirements - Other than the observations related to IIA Standards, no other observations were identified during our work.

Based on the information received and evaluated during this external quality assurance review, the TDA Internal Audit Division complies with the Texas Internal Auditing Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 2102).

Definitions of the available ratings for IIA Standards and GAGAS are included in Appendix C to this report.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by the internal audit director, internal audit staff, the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and the senior managers who participated in the interview process. We would also like to thank each person who completed surveys for the quality assurance review. The feedback from the surveys and the interviews provided valuable information regarding the operations of the internal audit department and its relationship with management.

Respectfully,

Hontrango Bruger 3 Co.

HONKAMP KRUEGER & CO., P.C.