

**Washington State Auditor's Office**  
**Accountability Audit Report**

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**Washington State Beef Commission**

Report Date  
**March 6, 2009**

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Issue Date  
**April 20, 2009**



WASHINGTON  
**BRIAN SONNTAG**  
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor  
Brian Sonntag**

April 20, 2009

Board of Commissioners  
Washington State Beef Commission  
Seattle, Washington

***Report on Accountability***

Please find attached our report on the Washington State Beef Commission's accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

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**March 6, 2009**

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# Audit Summary

## Washington State Beef Commission March 6, 2009

### ***ABOUT THE AUDIT***

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Washington State Beef Commission.

We performed audit procedures to determine whether the Commission complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. We also examined Commission management's accountability for public resources. Our work focused on specific areas that have potential for abuse and misuse of public resources.

Areas examined during the audit were selected using financial transactions from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2008.

### ***RESULTS***

The Commission complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined. Internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets.

### ***CLOSING REMARKS***

We thank Commission officials and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the audit.

# Description of the Commission

## Washington State Beef Commission March 6, 2009

### **ABOUT THE COMMISSION**

The Washington State Beef Commission was formed in 1969. Funding for the Commission is generated entirely by the state's approximately 9,000 beef producers and related industries through the state's assessment program. The state and federal Beef Checkoff Assessment Acts require that \$1.50 be submitted every time a bovine animal is sold in Washington. The Beef Checkoff Program funds the research and promotes the demand for beef.

A nine-member Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Director of Agriculture, is responsible for oversight of Commission operations. The Commission has four employees and had approximately \$6.6 million in revenue over the four-year audit period.

### **AUDIT HISTORY**

The Commission is audited every three to four years. The last audit reported no audit findings.

### **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Board of Commissioners:

Casey Lankhaar (through June 2008)  
Sid Viebrock (effective September 2005)  
Kim English (effective January 2006)  
Ted Kerst (effective July 2006)  
Karen Vandegraaf-Erickson (effective July 2006)  
Greg Brandhorst (effective December 2006)  
Jim Hinton (effective February 2007)  
Bruce Cameron (through August 2005)  
Ed Field (through December 2005)  
Keith Pearce (through March 2006)  
Ray McGaugh (through October 2006)  
Tom Beechinor (through January 2007)  
George DeRuyter (through January 2008)  
Leonard Eldridge  
Jeff Wiersma (June 2004 to June 2006)  
Patti Brumbach  
Rob Noel

Executive Director  
Director of Promotions

### **ADDRESS**

Commission

Suite 224  
14240 Interurban Avenue South  
Tukwila, WA 98168  
(206) 444-2902  
[www.wabeef.org](http://www.wabeef.org)

# Audit Areas Examined

## Washington State Beef Commission March 6, 2009

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every portion of the Washington State Beef Commission's financial activities during each audit. The areas examined were those representing the highest risk of noncompliance, misappropriation or misuse. Other areas are audited on a rotating basis over the course of several years. The following areas of the Commission were examined during this audit period:

### ***ACCOUNTABILITY***

We evaluated the Commission's accountability and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements in the following areas:

- Open public meetings/records laws
- Procurement of equipment
- Purchases and payments
- Revenue – assessments



## **ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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**T**he State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

Our mission is to work in cooperation with our audit clients and citizens as an advocate for government accountability. As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

The State Auditor's Office employees are located around the state to deliver our services effectively and efficiently.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments and fraud, whistleblower and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our Web site and through our free, electronic subscription service. We continue to refine our reporting efforts to ensure the results of our audits are useful and understandable.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. We provide training and technical assistance to governments and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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