

PRESS RELEASE – Williams County Agriculture Society – Board of Directors

Thursday the 19th of October, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Tuesday October 10th, 2017 the Ohio State Auditor's office issued a press release and copy of the recent bi-annual audit of the Williams County Agriculture Society. The information contained in that release was not reviewed by the Board of Directors and we have been unable until this point to review the findings and prepare this statement.

In accordance to the laws governing agriculture societies recognized as the Red Book, under section ORC 1711.09 the Directors believed to be acting in good faith conducting society sponsored reverse drawings each year to raise funds for improvements and projects. The community support of those drawings allowed the continued success of many recent additions to the grounds. The finding by the auditor under this section of law is disappointing but shall be acknowledged as an error on our part to not be repeated. The Board of Directors is collectively working to revamp the reverse drawing process to meet the guidelines of 1711.09 and continue that wonderful event to raise funds for future projects.

In as much as we were found in error on our processes for the reverse drawings, the findings of the Auditor also levied against the Board and several individual directors for the alcohol purchases that were used at the reverse drawing for participants. At no time did any current or former board members purchase alcohol for resale use without permit. This information is false. In conjunction with our review of the reverse drawing and the process to conduct those in accordance to 1711.09 the Directors will improve its practices for purchasing and distributing alcohol during those drawings that will be legal and transparent to the public to demonstrate our strong ethical and professional standards.

While other minor findings were noted in the report, the Board is committed to taking steps to review and implement adjustments as need to improve the business practices of the Society. It gives each of us great pleasure to serve the citizens of Williams County, the Jr. Fair and our fair participants and guests. We take the responsibility seriously to conduct business of the fair and society in the most transparent and professional method possible.

In accordance to the constitution of the Williams County Agriculture Society and our policy and procedures, we welcome public input, feedback and suggestions as well as our records are open to the public and available for review upon request. Any further questions or communication regarding the 2017 Auditor Report may be directed in writing to the Board of Directors to be responded to at the very next regular meeting of the board. The board meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the fairgrounds in the Thaman building.