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June 27, 2012

The Honorable Carl Seel, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable Rick Murphy, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Representative Seel and Senator Murphy:

Our Office has recently completed an 18-month followup of the Department of Agriculture (Department)—Sunset Factors (including sub-parts of the recommendations) regarding the implementation status of the 3 audit recommendations in the performance audit report released in September 2010 (Auditor General Report No. 10-07). As the attached grid indicates:

- 2 are implemented, and
- 1 is in the process of being implemented.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this concludes our follow-up work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations from the September 2010 performance audit.

Sincerely,

Dale Chapman, Director
Performance Audit Division

DC:sjs
Attachment

cc: Donald Butler, Director
Department of Agriculture

Department of Agriculture—Sunset Factors

Auditor General Report No. 10-07

18-Month Follow-Up Report

Recommendation

Status/Additional Explanation

Sunset Factor 6: The extent to which the Department has been able to investigate and resolve complaints that are within its jurisdiction.

1.1	To help better manage livestock complaints, the Department should:	
a.	Establish guidelines for when to involve the Office of Special Investigations in a complaint;	Implemented at 18 months
b.	Establish time frames for key steps in the complaint-handling process, such as supervisory review; and	Implemented at 18 months
c.	As resources are available, modify the AIRS database and use it to periodically monitor its inspectors' timeliness in responding to complaints and conducting investigations into alleged livestock neglect, abuse, and theft.	Implementation in process According to a department official, the Department decided that the AIRS database did not have the ability to adequately monitor inspector timeliness in responding to complaints and conducting investigations into alleged livestock neglect, abuse, and theft. Instead, the Department reported that it plans to implement a new computer-aided dispatch system that will allow the Department to better track livestock investigations. The Department reported that it expects to phase in the transition to this new system and begin tracking complaint investigation timeliness in fiscal year 2013.
