



Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

state auditor's report

Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
To: "Coppess, Keely" <keely.coppess@iowaagriculture.gov>

Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 12:17 PM

Hello Keely,

I know Secretary Naig is in Japan now, but I'm hoping you can answer some of these specific questions about the desktop deposit system, who opens the mail for certain bureaus, and so on.

Thanks,

Laura

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 7, 2019 at 9:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: state auditor's report
To: Coppess, Keely <keely.coppess@iowaagriculture.gov>

Circling back on these questions again, Keely. Does IDALS have any comment on the state auditors' warnings or any clarification on the questions I submitted?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2019 at 12:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: state auditor's report
To: Coppess, Keely <keely.coppess@iowaagriculture.gov>

Keely,

Does Secretary Naig have any comment on why IDALS has not acted on recommendations that have been made repeatedly under three different state auditors?

Why is Secretary Naig not concerned about improving internal controls at IDALS?

Thanks,

Laura

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 2:41 PM
Subject: Fwd: state auditor's report
To: Coppess, Keely <keely.coppess@iowaagriculture.gov>

Hello Keely,

I'm circling back on these questions.

Thanks,

Laura

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 2:37 PM

Subject: state auditor's report

To: <keely.coppess@iowaagriculture.gov>

Dear Keely,

I read the most recent Report of Recommendations from the State Auditor's office to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship:

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/58702/embed>

The report highlights issues relating to segregation of duties and internal controls.

Since at least 2010, state auditors have made similar recommendations to IDALS:

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/51195/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/1899/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/5640/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/9633/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/13956/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/18348/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/22554/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/25995/embed>

<https://www.auditor.iowa.gov/reports/file/53615/embed>

Every year, IDALS has responded that the department cannot have full segregation of duties due to funding restrictions, and has mentioned a desktop deposit system being implemented.

Can you clarify:

1. When did IDALS implement desktop deposit for most bureaus within the department?
2. Which bureaus within IDALS have not yet been transitioned to desktop deposit? When does IDALS expect to complete the transition?
3. The latest response from IDALS said,

The incoming mail is being opened by the Department receptionist for many of the Bureaus.

Which bureaus? Is the Department receptionist opening mail for any of the following?

- Dairy Bureau
- Commercial Feed and Fertilizer Bureau
- Animal Industry Bureau
- Weights and Measures Bureau
- Pesticide Bureau

4. The response from IDALS didn't make clear whether the Department plans to follow these specific recommendations from the state auditor. Can you clarify?

In addition, the Bureaus should reconcile collections per the Accounting Bureau to licenses issued to determine whether the appropriate fees were received and deposited. Access to the Bureaus' databases should be limited to the individuals who need access to perform their duties. Also, data entered in the databases should be reviewed to ensure accuracy. The Dairy Bureau should re-calculate fees remitted for accuracy, at least on a test basis. The Pesticide Bureau should consider verifying gross retail sales information, at least on a test basis, for dealer license renewals and product registration renewals.

5. If the Department does not plan to implement those recommendations, can you explain why not?

6. Do you have any further comment about why IDALS has not previously addressed concerns that have been raised repeatedly under three different state auditors?

Yours,

Laura
1705 Plaza Circle
Windsor Heights, IA 50324
(515) 276-6971

<http://www.bleedingheartland.com>