

Department of Agriculture

Agency 495

Audit Report	Finding Number	Finding and Resolution	
1034735	001	<p>Finding:</p> <p>Fraud Amount:</p> <p>Amount to be Recovered:</p> <p>Recovery to Date:</p> <p>Resolution/ Status:</p> <p>Personnel Action Taken:</p> <p>Criminal Action Taken:</p> <p>Agency Contact:</p>	<p>Internal controls were inadequate to safeguard public resources, resulting in inappropriate payroll time reporting between January 1, 2022, and March 31, 2022.</p> <p>\$50,986</p> <p>\$50,986</p> <p>\$36,692.47</p> <p>Since the conclusion of the investigation, the Department entered into overpayment and settlement agreements with each of the 28 employees involved in the investigation. As of November 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 employees have fully repaid the payments. • Six employees are still making payments, with the final payment scheduled for April 15, 2025. • Two employees are no longer employed by the Department and have not responded to requests for payment (totaling \$2,098.02). <p>The Department is committed to safeguarding state funds and is working with regional management to continually review additional internal control procedures and areas of weakness identified in the audit. The Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the Grain Program payroll process to require employees to submit their own daily time which is then approved by a supervisor and audited by a regional manager. • Implemented management attendance verification on alternative shifts. <p>15 employees received written reprimands. One employee received a written reprimand and voluntary demotion, one employee resigned in lieu of termination, and three employees received a 10% reduction in pay for three months.</p> <p>The Department notified the Kalama Police Department prior to initiating an internal investigation.</p> <p>The State Auditor’s Office referred the case to the Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and the Washington State Executive Ethics Board for any further action.</p> <p>Evan Sheffels Senior Policy Advisor PO Box 42560 Olympia, WA 98504-2560 (360) 742-8157 ESheffels@agr.wa.gov</p>