



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



June 30, 2016

Honorable Jay Dardenne
Commissioner of Administration
Division of Administration
P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

**Agricultural &
Environmental
Sciences**
Suite 3000
(225) 925-3770
Fax: 925-3760

RE: HCR 25 - Efficiencies

Commissioner Dardenne:

**Agro-Consumer
Services**
Suite 5000
(225) 922-1341
Fax: 923-4877

This report is submitted in response to HCR 25 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). Since Commissioner Strain took office in 2008, LDAF has continually examined its programs, operations, organizational structure, and processes to eliminate duplicative services in order to improve operations for greater efficiency. This has been challenging considering the numerous budget reductions. The following are specific examples of the initiatives implemented and ongoing program enhancements:

**Animal Health
& Food Safety**
Suite 4000
(225) 925-3962
Fax: 925-4103

Elimination of Programs

- Animal Nuisance Trapper Program
- Marketing Division
- Forestry Nursery Programs

Forestry
Suite 6000
(225) 925-4500
Fax: 922-1356

Workforce reduced by 30%

- LDAF had 829 employees in FY08
- Currently, LDAF has 553 employees

**Management
& Finance**
Suite 1000
(225) 922-1255
Fax: 925-6012

Fleet reduced by 48%

1,056 vehicles (139 specialty vehicles) in FY08 reduced to 613 today (474 vehicles; 139 specialty vehicles, i.e. fire transports, 18 wheelers {fire-fighting, food distribution}, wreckers, pumper trucks)

**Soil & Water
Conservation**
Suite 7000
(225) 922-1269
Fax: 922-2577

Aviation fleet has been reduced by 30%

From 20 airplanes in FY08 to 14 airplanes currently

Fuel consumption reduced by 45%

Bond Debt reduced 75%

\$93 million to \$23 million. (Achieved by paying down debt, restructuring debt for lower interest rate and not occurring any additional debt).

Realignment of Program

All of the Ancillary employees have been reassigned for better cross utilization of personnel. The Feed and Fertilizer program has been segregated to better align the programs to provide greater regulatory oversight and enhance program operations and resources.

Upgrade of GPS System

The department is currently upgrading the GPS fleet tracking system which, together with the new automated licensing systems, will provide managers and supervisors with vital data to optimize planning of inspections and routes for enforcement personnel. It is anticipated this will lead to increased productivity and reduction of fuel costs.

Information Technology Improvements

- Upgrade from DSL to wireless broadband at satellite offices, better performance while saving money.
- Implementation of web based Seed Regulatory system with online payments.
- Implementation of a new phone system, which provided communication convergence.
- Upgrade to locally managed backup/restore process; improved performance while saving money.
- Online payments developed for Horticulture program.
- Upgrade to the departments cloud based fax system which improved performance and saved money.
- Online reservation and payment system developed for the Indian Creek Recreation Center

Future Information Technology Improvement Projects

- Implementation of web based Weights and Measures, Pesticide and Horticulture Regulatory system with online payments.
- Implementation of web based Pesticide Product Registration system with online registration and payments.
- Implementation of web based Food Distribution system with online requests and payments.
- Implementation of web based animal health system which will track mandated laboratory testing of animal dieses. This will improve efficiencies.
- Migration to service based desktop software and services model; saving money, providing efficiencies including e-discovery.

Please feel free to contact Dane Morgan, Assistant Commissioner of Management and Finance at (225) 952-8142 should you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,



Dane K. Morgan
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Management and Finance