

# USDA's Security Controls over the Prevention and Mitigation of Ransomware



**Audit Report 50501-0024-12**

**February 2021**

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**



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United States Department of Agriculture



**DATE:** February 25, 2021

**AUDIT**

**NUMBER:** 50501-0024-12

**TO:** Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D.  
Acting Under Secretary  
Research, Education and Economics

**ATTN:** Lisa A. Baldus  
Associate Deputy Administrator

**FROM:** Gil H. Harden  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

**SUBJECT:** USDA's Security Controls Over the Prevention and Mitigation of Ransomware

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) performed an audit of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to test its controls to prevent, detect, mitigate, and recover from a ransomware attack. We requested evidence, including information technology (IT) and other related organizational policies and procedures, interviewed relevant IT personnel and compiled evidence related to prevention, detection, mitigation, and recovery from a ransomware attack at the mission area. We found that the mission area did not fully implement Federally-mandated controls. **This report contains sensitive content. It is being withheld from public release due to concerns about the risk of circumvention of law.**



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