



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Security Over USDA Web Applications



Inspection Report 50801-0002-12

October 2021



## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

United States Department of Agriculture



**DATE:** October 27, 2021

### INSPECTION

**NUMBER:** 50801-0002-12

**TO:** Gary S. Washington  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer

**ATTN:** Megen Davis  
Director, Strategic Planning, Egovernment and Audits  
Information Resource Management Center

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

**SUBJECT:** Security Over USDA Web Applications

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) performed an inspection of four mission areas within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to determine if the mission areas were identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities on their public-facing web applications and websites. We reviewed vulnerability scanning policies, procedures for identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities, as well as public-facing web application and website inventories. We also reviewed the four mission areas' processes pertaining to website and web application vulnerability management. This report contains sensitive content. It is being withheld from public release due to concerns about the risk of circumvention of law.

## Learn more about USDA OIG

Visit our website: [www.usda.gov/oig/index.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oig/index.htm)

Follow us on Twitter: @OIGUSDA

## How to Report Suspected Wrongdoing in USDA Programs

### Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

File complaint online: [www.usda.gov/oig/hotline.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oig/hotline.htm)

### Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. ET

In Washington, DC 202-690-1622

Outside DC 800-424-9121

TDD (Call Collect) 202-690-1202

### Bribes or Gratuities

202-720-7257 (24 hours)

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal

Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

All photographs on the front and back covers are from USDA's Flickr site and are in the public domain. They do not depict any particular audit or investigation.