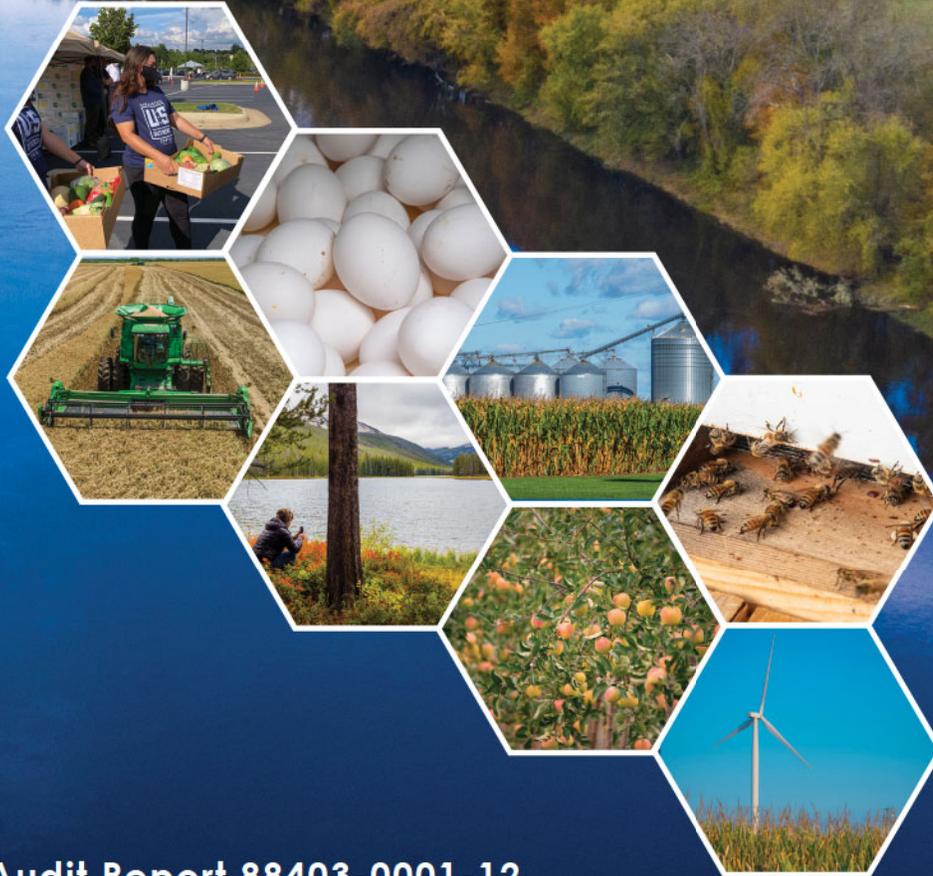


Independent Service Auditor's Report on the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Description of Its Data Center Hosting and Security Systems and the Suitability of the Design and Operating Effectiveness of Its Controls for the Period October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021



Audit Report 88403-0001-12

September 2021

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

United States Department of Agriculture



DATE: September 29, 2021

AUDIT

NUMBER: 88403-0001-12

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

ATTN: Megen Davis
Director
Strategic Planning, E-government and Audits

FROM: Gil H. Harden /s/
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

SUBJECT: Independent Service Auditor's Report on the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Description of Its Data Center Hosting and Security Systems and the Suitability of the Design and Operating Effectiveness of Its Controls for the Period October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

This report presents the results of the System and Organization Controls 1 Type 2 examination conducted in accordance with Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 18 for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO's) description of its data center hosting and security systems used to process user entities' transactions throughout the period October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The report contains an unmodified opinion on the description and controls that were suitably designed to provide reasonable assurance that the control objectives would be achieved.

An independent certified public accounting firm conducted the audit. In connection with the contract, we reviewed the independent firm's report and related documentation and inquired of its representatives. Our review, as differentiated from an audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards (issued by the Comptroller General of the United States), was not intended to enable us to express, and we do not express, opinions on the USDA OCIO's description of its data center hosting and security systems used to process user entities' transactions throughout the period October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The independent firm is responsible for the attached auditor's report, dated September 16, 2021, and the conclusions expressed in the report. However, our review disclosed no instances where the independent firm did not comply, in all material respects, with Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and relevant attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

This report contains sensitive information that is being withheld from public release due to concerns about the risk of circumvention of law.



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