



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Inspector General





OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

United States Department of Agriculture



DATE: May 22, 2025

INSPECTION

NUMBER: 50801-0015-12

TO: Gary Washington
Chief Information Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

ATTN: Sherry Golden
Audit Liaison Official IT Policy and Audits Division
Information Resources Management Center
Office of the Chief Information Officer

FROM: Steve Rickrode
Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit

SUBJECT: USDA's Management of Password Security – Final Report

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) performed an inspection of two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offices to assess USDA's management of password security. OIG's objective was to determine whether USDA's password management practices effectively prevented the use of passwords that are commonly used, expected, or compromised. We analyzed the results of the password hash-cracking tests on USDA's Enterprise Active Directory accounts. We interviewed agency officials and reviewed and evaluated applicable laws, policies, and procedures related to USDA's password security management as of September 2024. This report contains sensitive content. It is being withheld from public release due to concerns about risk of circumvention of law.

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