



Department of Health and Human Services

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# Office of Inspector General

Washington, DC 20201



June 26, 2025

The Honorable Janet M. Sorensen  
Acting Inspector General  
Department of Agriculture  
Room 117-W Jamie Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Inspector General Sorensen:

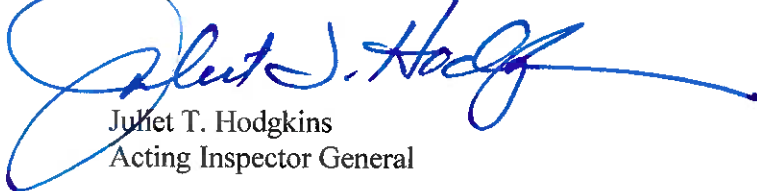
We have reviewed the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative operations of the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Agriculture (USDA-OIG) in effect for the period ended March 12, 2025. The attached final report provides the results of our Qualitative Assessment Review (QAR) of the investigative operations of USDA-OIG. This review was conducted under the QAR Guidelines established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

We reviewed compliance with your agency's system of internal policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. The review was conducted at USDA-OIG headquarters in Washington, DC, and at three field offices. Additionally, we sampled 50 case files for investigations closed between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

In performing our review, we also considered the prerequisites of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, 7 U.S.C. § 2270, which authorizes law enforcement powers for eligible personnel at USDA-OIG. Those powers may be exercised only for activities authorized by that statute, other applicable statutes, or expressly by the Attorney General.

In our opinion, the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative function of USDA-OIG in effect for the period ended March 12, 2025, is in compliance with the quality standards established by CIGIE and the other guidelines and statute cited above. These safeguards and procedures provide reasonable assurance of conforming with professional standards in the planning, execution, and reporting of investigations and in the use of law enforcement powers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juliet T. Hodgkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juliet T. Hodgkins  
Acting Inspector General