

2022 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – GAO-IG ACT EXHIBIT

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2022 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – GOOD ACCOUNTING OBLIGATION IN GOVERNMENT (GAO-IG) ACT

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*GAO-IG Act*

**SUMMARY**

The GAO-IG Act was enacted on January 3, 2019 and requires that Federal departments include information pertaining to audit recommendations from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as part of the annual Congressional budget justification materials. The following tables provide a listing of all open GAO and OIG audit recommendations for the Department of Agriculture and its agencies and staff offices.

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**OIG Recommendations**

*Table GAO-IG Act-1. Open OIG Audit Recommendations*

<u>Agency/Staff Office</u>	<u>Audit Title</u>	<u>Audit Number</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
APHIS	IMPROPER USAGE OF USDA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	50501-0020-12	6/27/2019	04	APHIS needs to implement procedures in accordance with Departmental policies, developed in response to recommendations 1 and 2, to ensure appropriate management officials such as supervisors, contracting officials, and supervisors of non-Government personnel are notified to make sure employees, contractors, or non-Government personnel that engage in improper usage of IT resources are properly tracked and monitored.	Open
APHIS	USDA AGENCY ACTIVITIES FOR AGROTERRORISM PREVENTION, DETECTION, AND RESPONSE	50701-0001-21	9/12/2018	01	Revise the agency's current process to respond to information requests to include a step to compile completed agroterrorism preparedness actions throughout the year and planned activities for future periods.	Open
APHIS	USDA AGENCY ACTIVITIES FOR AGROTERRORISM PREVENTION, DETECTION, AND RESPONSE	50701-0001-21	9/12/2018	04	Identify actions the agency performs that can serve as vulnerability assessments for HSPD-9 compliance. Include these actions in the annual report to OHS on agroterrorism preparedness.	Open
APHIS	USDA AGENCY ACTIVITIES FOR AGROTERRORISM PREVENTION, DETECTION, AND RESPONSE	50701-0001-21	9/12/2018	05	Revise processes for products considered to be vulnerability assessments to (a) update them every 2 years or document the determination why an update was not needed, and (b) regularly assess and update the status of efforts to mitigate vulnerabilities and to address previous recommendations.	Open
APHIS	CONTROLS OVER APHIS' INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS	50601-0001-32	9/22/2015	02	Develop and implement policies which require APHIS officials to analyze reports to (1) ensure that all release sites are included, (2) identify discrepancies, and (3) require immediate resolution.	Open

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APHIS	CONTROLS OVER APHIS' INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS	50601-0001-32	9/22/2015	08	Incorporate compliance reporting and tracking of all incidents in the information system being developed.	Open
ARS	IMPROPER USAGE OF USDA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	50501-0020-12	6/27/2019	03	ARS needs to implement procedures in accordance with Departmental policies, developed in response to recommendations 1 and 2, to ensure appropriate management officials such as supervisors, contracting officials, and supervisors of non-Government personnel are notified to make sure employees, contractors, or non-Government personnel that engage in improper usage of IT resources are properly tracked and monitored.	Open
ARS	FOLLOWUP REVIEW ON THE SECURITY OF BIOHAZARDO US MATERIAL AT USDA LABORATORIES	50601-0010-AT	3/8/2004	02A	Agencies need to provide more specific guidance to BSL-3 laboratories on how to interpret and enforce the biosecurity measures listed in the BSL-3 manual. For example: • Site-specific guidance for inventory recordkeeping. • The type and frequency of internal reviews to be conducted and by whom. • Site-specific guidance for cybersecurity issues.	Open
CCC	COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2018	06403-0002-11	11/20/2019	02	Implement effective processes, procedures, and controls to ensure undelivered and delivered orders, accrued liabilities, and accounts receivable are accurately recognized for newly enacted programs, such as the MFP. Further, when new programs are implemented, CCC should develop manual monitoring procedures to compensate for system weaknesses during the year of implementation, if such weaknesses exist.	Open
CCC	COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018	06403-0001-11	11/9/2018	10	We recommend that management implement the recommendations presented in Exhibit I, to resolve the instances of noncompliance with FFMIA.	Open

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FAS	FAS MONITORING OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S TRADE AGREEMENT INITIATIVES	07601-0002-23	12/5/2016	01	Develop and implement written procedures to ensure FAS specifically includes the Administration's initiatives in its Strategic Plan.	Open
FAS	PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION GRANT FUND ACCOUNTABILITY	07601-0001-22	3/31/2014	06	Evaluate the monitoring process to better identify PVOs for compliance reviews and increase onsite reviews, to include reviewing financial activities of active Food for Progress Program agreements. Ensure during compliance reviews that PVOs have separate bank accounts when required.	Open
FAS	SECTION 632(A) TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM USAID TO USDA - AFGHANISTAN	50601-0002-16	2/6/2014	01	Forego accepting further Section 632(a) funds until the agency has fully implemented a formal monitoring and evaluation process and a grants management structure, including finalizing agency regulations and directives.	Open
FAS	SECTION 632(A) TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM USAID TO USDA - AFGHANISTAN	50601-0002-16	2/6/2014	02	Implement the recommendations for the processing of Section 632 funds and agreements outlined in Acuity's review.	Open
FNS	FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS	27601-0001-21	2/4/2020	01	Require Southwest Regional Office (SWRO) to review all current, and future changes to Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Federal State agreements and plans of operation, for the Indian Tribal Organization (ITOs) within its jurisdiction, to ensure that they reflect relevant updates and confirm that forms are signed and dated by all required parties.	Open
FNS	FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS	27601-0001-21	2/4/2020	02	Require SWRO to develop and implement a documented process to ensure ITOs timely submit all required FDPIR reports. The process should include procedures for following up with ITOs.	Open

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FNS	FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS	27601-0001-21	2/4/2020	03	Require SWRO to routinely obtain and evaluate ITO's completed annual operations reviews to identify potential issues or trends as well as to ensure that ITOs implement corrective actions to address issues or concerns.	Open
FNS	FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS	27601-0001-21	2/4/2020	05	Develop and implement additional guidance to the FNS Handbook 501, Chapter 3, Section 3533, to include a description of what would be considered reasonable and sufficient documentation to adequately support eligibility determinations and to document third-party verification for any FDPIR applicant who reports \$0 income.	Open
FNS	SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PILOT PROJECTS	27601-0004-22	12/23/2019	01	Require States to substantiate that the reductions in the regular employment and training expenditures occurred for reasons other than the receipt or expected receipt of the Federal pilot funds.	Open
FNS	SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PILOT PROJECTS	27601-0004-22	12/23/2019	02	For any State unable to provide adequate substantiation for Recommendation 1, use agency authorities under 2 C.F.R. § 200.338 and agency policies over grants to seek recovery of pilot funds, as appropriate.	Open
FNS	REVIEW OF FNS' NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISASTER FUNDING TO PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA	27702-0001-22	10/18/2019	01	Document and present policy alternatives, including the potential for legislative change, to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services that would allow ADSEF to operate a permanent disaster assistance program when Puerto Rico is declared a disaster area under authority of the Stafford Act.	Open

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FNS	REVIEW OF FNS' NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISASTER FUNDING TO PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA	27702-0001-22	10/18/2019	02	Until ADSEF is allowed to operate a permanent disaster nutrition assistance program, require ADSEF to create and receive FNS approval for a comprehensive disaster nutrition assistance plan that plans for varying funding levels and timelines in the event that ADSEF is authorized supplemental disaster nutrition funding after future disasters. In this plan, outline how ADSEF will amend NAP regulations to better identify and assist those most affected by the disaster.	Open
FNS	REVIEW OF FNS' NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISASTER FUNDING TO PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA	27702-0001-22	10/18/2019	03	FNS and ADSEF should evaluate opportunities to leverage other agencies' data and resources to assist in delivering disaster nutrition assistance for future disasters, including coordinating with FEMA to qualify households for disaster nutrition assistance.	Open
FNS	REVIEW OF FNS' NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISASTER FUNDING TO PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA	27702-0001-22	10/18/2019	04	Based on the outcome of Recommendation 3, FNS and ADSEF should incorporate the coordination with other agencies in yearly disaster plans for Puerto Rico.	Open
FNS	REVIEW OF FNS' NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISASTER FUNDING TO PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA	27702-0001-22	10/18/2019	06	Perform and document a review of ADSEF's eligibility system to verify that the retroactive/claims module is no longer modifying data in the budget module.	Open
FNS	REVIEW OF FNS' NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISASTER FUNDING TO PUERTO RICO AS A RESULT OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA	27702-0001-22	10/18/2019	08	Require ADSEF to regularly perform checks against SSA national death information to ensure deceased individuals are not receiving benefits. Review cases identified through the audit and establish claims for overpayments, as appropriate.	Open

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FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	01	Direct the State agency to ensure SFSP sponsors fully address all application questions before the State agency approves their applications.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	04	Direct the State agency to consistently implement its standard operating procedures for SFSP site application reviews by ensuring staff obtain adequate justifications for close proximities and for why sites are not classified as open and ensuring that summer school sites are open sites.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	05	Direct the State agency to update its standard operating procedures for site application reviews so that staff verify SFSP sponsors implement proposed changes and provide acceptable justifications before site applications are approved.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	07	Direct the State agency to provide its staff with training on the enhanced application procedures addressing concerns we identified on SFSP site applications.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	09	Direct the State agency to review Sponsor E's unsupported meal claims, which we identified as totaling \$385,301, and recover disallowed reimbursements, as applicable.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	10	Direct the State agency to complete its review of the sponsor whose milk receipts were commingled with Sponsor E and take action, as appropriate.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	11	Direct the State agency to review Sponsor C for its unsupported reimbursements based on meal count errors, which we identified as totaling \$80,806, and recover disallowed reimbursements, as applicable.	Open



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FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	15	Direct the State agency to review Sponsor C's and E's records of allowable costs to determine if they support their remaining adjusted 2016 reimbursements and replenish the disallowed costs to the program, as applicable.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	19	Require the State agency to direct identified SFSP sponsors to provide additional, enhanced SFSP training to their site staff and monitor to ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge of SFSP requirements when operating and monitoring sites serving meals.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	20	Direct the State agency to review and confirm whether the SFSP sponsors received \$2,430 for reimbursements for identified non-reimbursable meals. The State agency should recover any reimbursements paid to sponsors, as applicable.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	21	Direct the State agency to review whether the SFSP sponsors received \$307 for reimbursements that should have been disallowed during State agency site reviews in 2016. The State agency should recover any reimbursements paid to sponsors, as applicable.	Open
FNS	FLORIDA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-31	8/26/2019	12	Direct the State agency to review Sponsor B for its meal count errors that led to a net underclaim, which we identified as \$1,586, and remedy the underpayment, as applicable.	Open
FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	05	Direct the State agency to review questioned costs of \$646,037 related to 217,040 non-reimbursable meals, associated with the eight sponsors in our audit and recover costs determined to be unsupported. Where necessary, declare identified sponsors seriously deficient and, if the deficiencies are not fully and permanently corrected, terminate their participation in SFSP.	Open

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FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	06	Direct the State agency to review unsupported costs of \$13,705 associated with the eight sponsors in our audit and recover costs determined to be unsupported.	Open
FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	07	Request the State agency to review unallowable costs of \$9,960 associated with the eight sponsors in our audit and recover costs determined to be unsupported.	Open
FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	08	Direct the State agency to review questioned costs of \$34,506 paid to the sponsors in our audit that claimed 9,214 non-reimbursable meals and recover costs determined to be unsupported.	Open
FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	09	Direct the State agency to determine if the other nine sponsors claimed \$33,397 in nonreimbursable meals identified by our audit. The State agency should recover any amount it determines is unallowable.	Open
FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	18	Develop and implement formal procedures that require agency officials to expeditiously refer sponsors who are known to or are suspected to have violated SFSP laws or regulations to OIG for investigative evaluation.	Open
FNS	SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN TEXAS-SPONSOR COSTS	27004-0003-21	3/14/2019	19	Coordinate with OIG Investigations to establish a process to refer SFSP violations of law and regulations to OIG for investigative evaluation.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	01	Direct the State Agency to ensure that its staff follow its policy that requires staff to examine the reasonableness of ADP based on additional factors such as the historical record of attendance.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	02	Request the State Agency to establish a reasonable range by which the ADP they approve can exceed the historical average of meals served per day.	Open

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FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	05	Establish guidance that details information State agencies should consider during its evaluation and approval of sponsors' budget (such as consideration of prior year reimbursements and prior administrative review findings).	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	07	Request the State agency to develop and implement guidance on how agency staff are to support conclusions made during administrative reviews. The guidance should include procedures to document what records or transactions they tested to verify the adequacy of sponsor processes, or the basis for its staff's conclusion that sponsors complied with SFSP regulations.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	08	Request the State agency to train its staff on how to implement the new guidance established in the above recommendation.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	09	Request the State agency to develop an oversight review process for State agency management to periodically evaluate the administrative reviews to ensure agency staff's conclusions are supported.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	10	Direct the State agency to review the sponsors' unsupported meals claimed totaling \$28,055 identified by OIG and recover any disallowed SFSP reimbursements from the sponsors.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	11	Direct the State agency to review the sponsors' questionable costs totaling \$253,369 identified by OIG and recover any disallowed expenditures from the sponsors.	Open

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FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	12	Direct the State agency to develop and implement additional review questions to identify if sponsors are claiming meals for reimbursement on days the State agency has not approved to serve. In addition, the State agency should include in its guidance instructions for its staff to expand their analysis if they determine that meals have been claimed for reimbursement on unapproved days.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	13	Request the State agency to ensure identified sponsors provide additional, enhance SFSP training to site staff to ensure staff have sufficient knowledge of program requirements when operating sites and serving meals.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	15	Request the State agency to direct identified sponsors to establish a reasonable level of monitoring they will conduct, beyond the initial review conducted during the first four weeks, to oversee their SFSP operation throughout the program. Direct the sponsors to document the results of review.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	16	Direct the State agency to monitor and assess the identified sponsors' enhanced site training, specialized site monitor training, and increased level of site monitoring to ensure the identified sponsors' compliance.	Open
FNS	TEXAS CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0004-21	3/14/2019	17	Direct the State agency to determine if the four identified sponsors received approximately \$201 in reimbursements for the 53 meals we identified as non-reimbursable during site observations. The State agency should recover any reimbursements paid to sponsors for those non-reimbursable meals identified by our review.	Open

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FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	01	Direct the State agency to develop and implement procedures to assess the adequacy of SFSP applicants' financial management capabilities to separately track SFSP funds and support SFSP costs during the application process, and ensure sponsors demonstrate financial and management capabilities for program operations.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	09	Direct the State agency to carefully evaluate the eligibility of the two sponsors that lacked adequate financial management capabilities (Sponsors B and E) if they choose to return to the program, and document the basis of its determinations to ensure the weaknesses identified by OIG have been corrected.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	10	Direct the State agency to calculate and recover any unallowable reimbursements paid to Sponsors B and C resulting from their site misclassifications.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	15	Direct the State agency to confirm the sponsor questionable costs totaling \$214,441 identified by OIG and recover any disallowed costs from the SFSP sponsors.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	16	Direct the State agency to confirm the sponsor unsupported costs totaling \$100,536 identified by OIG and recover any disallowed costs from the SFSP sponsors.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	17	Direct the State agency to confirm the sponsor questionable meal claims totaling \$18,923 identified by OIG and recover any disallowed SFSP reimbursements from the sponsors.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	18	Direct the State agency to confirm the sponsor unsupported meal claims totaling \$42,860 identified by OIG and recover any disallowed SFSP reimbursements from the sponsors.	Open

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FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	20	Direct the State agency to confirm each of the OIG-identified sponsor noncompliance issues and ensure identified sponsors correct the deficiencies.	Open
FNS	CALIFORNIA'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-41	11/5/2018	25	Direct the State agency to confirm whether the sponsors claimed any of the OIG-identified questionable, non-reimbursable meals counted by the sites. If the sponsor claimed these meals, direct the State agency to recover the \$430 in questionable meal claims.	Open
FNS	COMPILATION REPORT OF STATES' COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF SUP	27601-0019-10	9/28/2018	01	Issue a clarification memorandum reiterating the importance of State compliance with 7 CFR §274.3, Retailer Management, with an emphasis that: • The State agency must have an executed agreement between the State, (or it's agent, the EBT Contractor) and each Exempt Retailer • The agreement must contain the minimum required content • A new agreement must be timely executed when there is a vendor name and/or FNS number change.	Open
FNS	COMPILATION REPORT OF STATES' COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF SUP	27601-0019-10	9/28/2018	02	Issue a clarification memorandum to reiterate that State agencies (and their EBT Contractors) shall keep such records as may be necessary to determine program compliance (e.g., exempt retailer agreements), and records shall be available for inspection and audit within a reasonable time.	Open
FNS	COMPILATION REPORT OF STATES' COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF SUP	27601-0019-10	9/28/2018	03	Review 7 CFR, Part 274 and associated guidance to identify areas that require update, revision, or improvement and based on FNS' review, determine which sections and/or related guidance merit revision and initiate the process to revise, as deemed appropriate.	Open
FNS	NEW YORK'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-23	9/24/2018	05	Direct the State agency to work with FNS to confirm the OIG-identified questionable costs (\$18,394) and to recover any disallowed costs from the SFSP sponsors.	Open

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FNS	NEW YORK'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-23	9/24/2018	06	Direct the State agency to confirm the OIG-identified unsupported costs (\$48,157) and to recover any disallowed costs from the SFSP sponsors.	Open
FNS	NEW YORK'S CONTROLS OVER SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM	27004-0001-23	9/24/2018	08	Direct the State agency to confirm the OIG-identified questionable meal reimbursements (\$2,911) and recover any disallowed reimbursements from the SFSP sponsors.	Open
FNS	COMPILATION REPORT OF STATES' COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES AUP	27601-0013-10	12/19/2017	01	Issue a clarification memorandum reiterating the importance of FNS and State agency compliance with FNS Instruction 113-1 Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement Nutrition Programs and Activities, with special emphasis on establishing requirements for timeliness and content of notifications to complainants for receipt and final decision of complaints.	Open
FNS	COMPILATION REPORT OF STATES' COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES AUP	27601-0013-10	12/19/2017	02	Review those 7 CFR Part 272 SNAP regulations identified in Appendix A of this report and related authoritative guidance to assess: • Viability - some sections appear obsolete (e.g., 7 CFR §272.10) • Consistency - ensure FNS regulations, and other authoritative guidance are current, consistent, and do not contradict laws or one another (e.g., 7 CFR §272.10, Handbook 901) Based on FNS' review, determine which sections and/or related guidance merit revision and initiate the process to revise, as deemed appropriate.	Open

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FNS	WASHINGTON'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0012-10	9/28/2017	06	Require WA DSHS provide guidance and/or training to case workers and new employees to ensure compliance with 7 CFR §272.13 requirements, with emphasis on the requirements associated with providing notice to the household of PVS match results and establishment of claims for individuals who have been incarcerated for over 30 days.	Open
FNS	WASHINGTON'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0012-10	9/28/2017	07	Require WA DSHS to include the SSA database in their prisoner verification system to comply with 7 CFR §272.13 and ensure applicants or recipients are not also listed in the SSA PVS.	Open
FNS	SOUTH CAROLINA'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0011-10	9/14/2017	07	Require SC DSS to review the 7 cases identified where an individual who may have been deceased was issued benefits to determine if payments were improper and warrant the establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	SOUTH CAROLINA'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0011-10	9/14/2017	01	Require FNS CRD administration perform a review of the current discrimination complaint process, including workloads and processing times, to identify process improvements. Based on the results, incorporate those improvements into the revised FNS Instruction 113-1 manual that is currently being drafted, to ensure future complaints are processed timely.	Open



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FNS	SOUTH CAROLINA'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0011-10	9/14/2017	05	Require SC DSS to implement a functioning Prisoner Verification System that satisfies the requirements under 7 CFR §272.13, including: Monitoring and preventing individuals incarcerated for over 30 days from being included in a SNAP household; providing for the proper use of match data; making a comparison of match data in the case file to the PVS match results data for adult household members at the time of application and recertification.	Open
FNS	SOUTH CAROLINA'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0011-10	9/14/2017	08	Require SC DSS to properly implement a Deceased Matching System that satisfies the requirements under 7 CFR §272.14, including: verifying and ensuring that benefits are not issued to individuals who are deceased; providing for the proper use of match data; making a comparison of match data in the case file to the DMS match results data for each household member at the time of application and at least once a year.	Open
FNS	SFSP- Texas Sponsor Audit Interim Report - 27004-0003-21(1)	27004-0003-21(1)	9/7/2017	01	Ensure that the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) reviews records supporting the \$110,670 paid in program year 2016 to the two sponsors, and recover funds paid to the two sponsors for costs that TDA determines are not supported and allowable.	Open
FNS	PENNSYLVANIA'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR,	27601-0010-10	8/9/2017	01	Augment FNS CRD discrimination complaint processing procedures to address processing of long and complex complaints to ensure they are submitted to FNS CRD in accordance with required processing timeframes.	Open
FNS	GEORGIA'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES (7 CFR, PART 272)	27601-0008-10	6/14/2017	04	Require GA DFCS to review the 2 identified cases who potentially received benefits while incarcerated for over 30 days and determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open

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FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	11	Require New Mexico HSD review the two identified cases and verify income to determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	16	Require HSD review the two cases identified to determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	02	Require New Mexico HSD verify enrollment and/or exemption, as applicable, for the four student cases identified, and if it is determined the students were ineligible, require HSD to determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	14	Require HSD to review the case identified to determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	18	Require HSD review the case identified to determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	05	Require HSD to review the four cases identified to determine if payments were improper and warrant establishment of a claim.	Open
FNS	NEW MEXICO'S COMPLIANCE WITH SNAP CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS REQUIREMENTS	27601-0003-10	9/27/2016	09	The five cases identified above be reconciled with other State/Territory eDRS queries performed during the coverage gap period to identify disqualified individuals who may have attempted to receive benefits in another State/Territory.	Open

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FNS	FNS QUALITY CONTROL PROCESS FOR SNAP ERROR RATE	27601-0002-41	9/23/2015	11	Amend FNS QC policies and procedures (including FNS Handbook 310) to require the error tolerance threshold not be applied when calculating the SNAP recipient's reportable error amount until all variances (including those permitted by SNAP policy) have been properly identified and accounted for during the QC process.	Open
FNS	FNS' CONTROLS FOR AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RETAILERS	27601-0001-31	7/31/2013	10	After regulations are revised, notify the 586 store owners that in the future, any trafficking violation will require the store owner to qualify for and pay an in lieu of permanent disqualification penalty or be subject to permanent disqualification at all store locations currently authorized for that owner.	Open
FNS	FNS' CONTROLS FOR AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RETAILERS	27601-0001-31	7/31/2013	11	Initiate the regulatory changes necessary to ensure owners that have been permanently disqualified for trafficking are not granted authorization as a SNAP retailer at new locations.	Open
FNS	FNS' CONTROLS FOR AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RETAILERS	27601-0001-31	7/31/2013	09	Revise regulations and policy to permanently disqualify retail store owners at all authorized retail locations operated by that owner(s) if the owner(s) does not meet the criteria to receive a trafficking civil money penalty in lieu of permanent disqualification.	Open
FPAC-Business Center	REVIEW OF AN NRCS IT-RELATED CONTRACT	10801-0001-12	3/30/2020	01	FPAC BC should assess its contracting oversight staff, PWS development, and contract monitoring processes to determine what weaknesses exist, and then train staff and adjust processes, as appropriate.	Open
FPAC-Business Center	FSA'S CONTROLS OVER ITS CONTRACT CLOSEOUT PROCESS	03601-0003-41	3/27/2020	01	Establish an action plan to timely and effectively clear the current backlog of contracts that need to be closed out and to deobligate any remaining funds.	Open

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FPAC-Business Center	FSA'S CONTROLS OVER ITS CONTRACT CLOSEOUT PROCESS	03601-0003-41	3/27/2020	02	Establish a process that ensures contracts are timely closed out and any remaining funds deobligated.	Open
FPAC-Business Center	FSA'S CONTROLS OVER ITS CONTRACT CLOSEOUT PROCESS	03601-0003-41	3/27/2020	03	Develop and implement a mechanism to nationally track the estimated dates for when contracts need to be closed out and any remaining funds deobligated.	Open
FPAC-Business Center	FSA'S CONTROLS OVER ITS CONTRACT CLOSEOUT PROCESS	03601-0003-41	3/27/2020	09	Provide periodic training to contracting staff on the use of the standardized checklist FPAC-BC developed and the contract closeout documents required in the contract files.	Open
FPAC-Business Center	FSA'S CONTROLS OVER ITS CONTRACT CLOSEOUT PROCESS	03601-0003-41	3/27/2020	10	Establish an action plan to timely and effectively clear the current backlog of contracts that need contractor performance evaluations completed in CPARS.	Open
FS	IMPROPER USAGE OF USDA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	50501-0020-12	6/27/2019	05	FS needs to implement procedures in accordance with Departmental policies, developed in response to recommendations 1 and 2, to ensure appropriate management officials such as supervisors, contracting officials, and supervisors of non-Government personnel are notified to make sure employees, contractors, or non-Government personnel that engage in improper usage of IT resources are properly tracked and monitored.	Open
FSA	USDA FISCAL YEAR 2019 FIRST QUARTER DATA ACT SUBMISSION	11601-0001-12	11/8/2019	07	FSA needs to develop and implement a process to ensure financial assistance transaction record types are properly labeled and recorded, to ensure complete and accurate DATA Act reporting.	Open
FSA	AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE AND PRICE LOSS COVERAGE PROGRAMS	03601-0002-31	9/20/2018	07	Revise the current spot check process utilized for reviewing PLC yields. In particular, FSA could consider including retained payment yields in the review process and/or requiring a mandatory review of any PLC yield that appears unusually high, as defined by the agency.	Open

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FSA	COORDINATION OF USDA FARM PROGRAM COMPLIANCE - FSA, RMA, AND NRCS	50601-0003-22	1/27/2017	02	With guidance from the assigned Department-level entity, FSA, RMA, and NRCS need to revise the plan, with a timeline, to show when and how ACRSI will be fully implemented to include the ability of producers in all States to report acreage data, geospatial data, and production data for all crops.	Open
FSA	COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2014	06401-0005-11	2/12/2016	16	Accounting for Recoveries of Prior Year Unpaid Obligations and Obligations - Implement the necessary functionality within the financial management systems to automatically deobligate undelivered orders at the time of payment.	Open
FSA	COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2014	06401-0005-11	2/12/2016	18	Funds Control - Continue the implementation of automated funds control of all obligations and expenditures at the transaction level within the core financial system. Further, implement necessary compensating controls until such automated controls are fully implemented.	Open
FSA	COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2014	06401-0005-11	2/12/2016	19	We recommend that management implement the recommendations presented in Exhibit I, to resolve the instances of noncompliance with FFMIA.	Open
FSA	LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM	03702-0001-32	12/10/2014	02	Review and recover improper overpayments of \$358,956 due to errors in calculating Livestock Forage Program (LFP) payments.	Open
FSA	LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM	03702-0001-32	12/10/2014	10	Develop and implement a tracking system for the required DD reviews in each State in order to ensure DD reviews are done timely and a report is filed with the State Executive Director (SED) within the required timeframe.	Open
FSA	FARM SERVICE AGENCY COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	03601-0001-22	7/31/2014	01	Develop and implement an integrated compliance strategy to ensure that FSA's compliance activities are efficient and effective in reducing the potential for fraud, waste, and abuse.	Open

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FSA	FARM SERVICE AGENCY COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	03601-0001-22	7/31/2014	02	Ensure that each of FSA's compliance activities has a clearly defined goal that contributes to FSA's overall compliance strategy and that each activity is effectively designed to achieve that purpose.	Open
FSA	FARM SERVICE AGENCY COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	03601-0001-22	7/31/2014	03	Revise the NCR process to ensure that it focuses on producer compliance and identifies the cause of errors or noncompliance.	Open
FSA	FARM SERVICE AGENCY COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	03601-0001-22	7/31/2014	04	Ensure that county offices are completing and accurately documenting all NCR results.	Open
FSA	FARM SERVICE AGENCY COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	03601-0001-22	7/31/2014	05	Revise the reporting process to ensure that FSA is capturing useful information from NCRs so that FSA can identify potential systemic issues and develop appropriate corrective actions.	Open
FSA	ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE TO USERS OF UPLAND COTTON	03601-0002-22	7/31/2014	05	Amend the EAAP user agreement to require any user exiting the program to undergo a closeout examination after all transactions have been completed, including a review to determine if any payments transferred to another user are proper.	Open
FSA	TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS PROGRAM PHASE II	50703-0001-23	10/18/2013	09	Collect TAAF Program payments, totaling \$84,000, from those producers whose self-certification was not supported by their records.	Open
FSA	BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: COLLECTION, HARVEST, STORAGE, AND TRANSPORTATION MATCHING	03601-0028-KC	5/30/2012	24	Based on the determinations reached regarding scheme or device, initiate appropriate administrative actions including the termination of any violated facility agreements and the recovery of any improperly disbursed matching payments plus interest. Coordinate with OIG Investigations prior to initiating any administrative actions.	Open
FSA	HURRICANE INDEMNITY PROGRAM - INTEGRITY OF DATA PROVIDED BY RMA	50601-0015-AT	3/31/2010	05	FSA should recover the \$815,612 in HIP overpayments that have been identified, and recover any other overpayments resulting from RMA's review of the AIPs' changes to cause of loss and date of damage	Open

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FSA	HURRICANE RELIEF INITIATIVES: LIVESTOCK AND FEED INDEMNITY PROGRAMS	03601-0023-KC	2/2/2009	04	For each application for which it is determined (under Recommendation 3) that the third-party statements and/or beginning inventory documentation omitted from the application did not meet program requirements, recover resultant overpayments.	Open
FSA	PAYMENT LIMITATION REVIEW IN LOUISIANA	03099-0181-TE	5/8/2008	02	If an adverse determination is made for Recommendation 1, collect program payments subject to limitation for each year for which a scheme or device was adopted and for the subsequent year. (The producers' payments subject to limitation totaled over \$1.4 million for the 2000 through 2002 crop years. See exhibit E.)	Open
FSA	TOBACCO TRANSITION PAYMENT PROGRAM - QUOTA HOLDER PAYMENTS AND FLUE-CURED TOBACCO QUOTAS	03601-0012-AT	9/26/2007	02	Instruct Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia to require the 5 COs to review the 14 contracts where applicants did not meet FSA's eligibility requirements and take appropriate recovery actions to collect \$119,568 of improper payments made in FYs 2005, 2006, and 2007.	Open
FSA	CROP BASES ON LANDS WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	50099-0011-SF	8/27/2007	02	Direct FSA's California State office to remove crop bases from the 33 easement-encumbered lands and recover \$1,290,147 in improper payments.	Open
FSA	EMERGENCY FEED PROGRAM IN TEXAS	03601-0007-TE	9/8/1996	04A	Instruct the Reeves County CED to recover the cited ineligible benefits from Producer A (\$30.73) and Producer B (\$21,620).	Open
FSA	EMERGENCY FEED PROGRAM IN TEXAS	03601-0007-TE	9/8/1996	05B	If the COC determines a scheme or device was used to defeat the purpose of the EFP, instruct the REEVES County CED to recover the \$70,529 in benefits paid this producer for crop years 1994 and 1995 and cancel the \$12,350 in benefits which otherwise are available for the 1995 crop year. (NOTE \$30,773 of this amount is also included in Recommendation No. 4)	Open

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FSA	EMERGENCY FEED PROGRAM IN TEXAS	03601-0007-TE	9/8/1996	06A	Instruct the Reeves County COC to review the validity of the 1994 EFP form CCC-651 for Producer B and determine the eligibility of the producer and the \$32,546 in benefits paid for crop year 1994. (NOTE: \$21,620 of this amount is also included in Recommendation No. 4)	Open
FSA	1993 CROP DISASTER PAYMENTS - BROOKS/JIM HOGG COS., TX	03006-0001-TE	1/2/1996	01A	Coordinate with OIG-Investigations before taking administrative action regarding the cited 27 producers whose eligibility we questioned. Take administrative action to recover payments on cases that are not handled through the legal system.	Open
FSIS	COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT PROGRAM	24601-0002-22	12/11/2019	01	Amend FSIS Directive 5740.1, Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program, to instruct the SECs to prepare written documentation of their onsite verification visits. This documentation should include, at a minimum, a brief overview of review procedures performed for each of the eight compliance areas and a description of the analyses conducted.	Open
FSIS	FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FOLLOWUP ON THE 2007 AND 2008 AUDIT INITIATIVES	24016-0001-23	6/7/2017	12	Develop and implement procedures for district officials to follow and document when performing oversight and monitoring of front-line supervisors' activities.	Open
FSIS	FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FOLLOWUP ON THE 2007 AND 2008 AUDIT INITIATIVES	24016-0001-23	6/7/2017	13	Develop and implement a policy that requires front-line supervisors to document their monitoring and oversight activities (separate from the twice per year IPPS review requirement) at assigned establishments on a periodic basis.	Open
FSIS	FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FOLLOWUP ON THE 2007 AND 2008 AUDIT INITIATIVES	24016-0001-23	6/7/2017	03	Develop and implement a process to monitor and track the completion of all of the required elements and sub-elements of employees' In-Plant Performance System (IPPS) reviews. This process should include procedures for FSIS management to verify that all the required elements and sub elements for an IPPS review are completed.	Open



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FSIS	FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FOLLOWUP ON THE 2007 AND 2008 AUDIT INITIATIVES	24016-0001-23	6/7/2017	04	Make improvements to the AssuranceNet system, as necessary, to ensure data reliability.	Open
FSIS	FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FOLLOWUP ON THE 2007 AND 2008 AUDIT INITIATIVES	24016-0001-23	6/7/2017	07	Implement a process that requires FSIS inspectors to receive annual recertification on humane handling requirements. This process should require specific ongoing training to all staff including front line supervisors on current and new program requirements and the applicable directives, including examples of how to apply those requirements at the district and establishment levels. This recertification training should also include guidance on issuing the various disciplinary tools (e.g., noncompliance records and notice of intended enforcement (NOIE)).	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	01	Develop and implement a policy of retaining complete supporting documentation for capacity grant programs' allocation calculations, including written methodologies and calculation records.	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	02	Develop and implement policy and procedures for effectively performing and reviewing calculations of funding allocations to ensure accuracy.	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	03	Determine whether \$2,825,604 paid to institutions in the Evans-Allen Research Program and 1890 Extension Program; \$3,633,065 in the Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) Program; and \$66,103 in the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program should be discharged under applicable laws. If the amounts cannot be discharged, seek recovery of overpayments to those institutions.	Open

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NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	07	For years where appropriations include additional allocation requirements, develop and implement written procedures to assure each institution receives no less than the established minimum.	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	08	Perform an analysis and make a recommendation on whether to submit a legislative proposal to revise the EFNEP's statutory formula that would allow the use of the most recent decennial Census poverty data to calculate its distribution of funds to States. Also, take the actions needed to implement the decision made on the recommendation.	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	09	Develop and implement a policy to periodically review funding calculation formulas for individual capacity grant programs, including EFNEP, to determine whether their formulas remain valid and continue to meet the intent of the programs.	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	10	Conduct a review of internal and external guidance to determine whether they conform to applicable laws; where warranted, revise and issue updated guidance to States and institutions that ensures the States are cognizant of their authority to allocate EFNEP funding between 1862 institutions and 1890 institutions.	Open
NIFA	NIFA FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS CONTROLS OVER FUND ALLOCATIONS TO STATES	13601-0001-22	8/7/2019	11	For parts of the formula that require State funding allocations, routinely require and maintain documentation from States designating EFNEP funding allocations when two or more eligible institutions are located in the same State.	Open
NRCS	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019	10403-0002-11	11/26/2019	01	We recommend that NRCS management refine and implement necessary enhancements to FMFI processes to better address the reliability of the period of performance data.	Open

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NRCS	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019	10403-0002-11	11/26/2019	04	We continue to recommend that NRCS management provide adequate training to personnel related to the documentation requirements for support.	Open
NRCS	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019	10403-0002-11	11/26/2019	07	We recommend that NRCS management implement and enforce deadlines for follow up procedures over expenses and related accruals.	Open
NRCS	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019	10403-0002-11	11/26/2019	14	We recommend that NRCS management identify the appropriate resources and provide guidance to ensure that such resources understand their roles, responsibilities and are adequate for the needs of the agency.	Open
NRCS	USDA FISCAL YEAR 2019 FIRST QUARTER DATA ACT SUBMISSION	11601-0001-12	11/8/2019	03	NRCS, in coordination with OCFO, needs to develop a process to ensure it properly reports its D2 data.	Open
NRCS	EQIP PAYMENT SCHEDULES	10601-0005-31	9/24/2019	04	Ensure that the EQIP payment schedule includes necessary components and scenarios to address State and regional needs and exceptions.	Open
NRCS	EQIP PAYMENT SCHEDULES	10601-0005-31	9/24/2019	06	Expand current internal reviews to address control weaknesses identified in this report.	Open
NRCS	CONTROLS OVER CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	10099-0001-23	9/11/2018	03	Obtain and assess missing quarterly and semiannual reports from the 35 CIGs reviewed and determine if \$4,366,090 in CIG funds were paid out appropriately or if funds should be recovered. If CIG funds should be recovered, begin the recovery process.	Open
NRCS	CONTROLS OVER CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	10099-0001-23	9/11/2018	06	Ensure the identified \$1,271,659 of insufficiently supported matching funds is verified and reconciled. NRCS should take appropriate action where applicable.	Open
NRCS	CONTROLS OVER CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	10099-0001-23	9/11/2018	07	Define the roles and responsibilities of the national office staff responsible for monitoring the State CIG program.	Open

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NRCS	CONTROLS OVER CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	10099-0001-23	9/11/2018	11	Develop a system for tracking CIG payment requests to ensure payments are made within 30 days after receipt of the request.	Open
NRCS	NRCS REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONTROLS	10601-0004-31	6/28/2018	01	Develop and implement guidance, policies, and procedures to ensure consistent administration of RCPP.	Open
NRCS	NRCS REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONTROLS	10601-0004-31	6/28/2018	02	Develop and implement a formal national oversight process to assess State and partner compliance with the RCPP guidance, policies, and procedures established in response to Recommendation 1.	Open
NRCS	NRCS REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONTROLS	10601-0004-31	6/28/2018	03	Obtain and review additional supporting documentation for the questioned \$632,687 in RCPP payments made without adequate documentation and recover any payments that are determined to be ineligible for technical assistance expenses.	Open
NRCS	NRCS REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONTROLS	10601-0004-31	6/28/2018	04	Request the return of previously issued RCPP technical assistance payments of \$60,357 to partners for ineligible expenses.	Open
NRCS	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE'S BALANCE SHEET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017	10401-0009-11	11/13/2017	01	We recommend that management of the NRCS: A. Enhance processes and NRCS feeder systems to improve monitoring of activity in U.S. Standard General Ledger (USSGL) 4871 and 4881 and ensure that invalid upward and downward adjustments are identified and corrected in a timely manner and that balances are appropriate; and B. Develop and implement a process that tracks agreement progress to ensure all signed agreements have been recorded in the financial system.	Open

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NRCS	NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Controls - 10601-0004-31(2) (Interim Report	10601-0004-31(2)	11/13/2017	02	NRCS should request the RCPP partner to provide supporting documentation that includes the land and producer information for all previously made payments. NRCS should review any additional documentation provided and, if the partner does not provide the unredacted documentation, then NRCS should request a return of the previous payments.	Open
NRCS	CONTROLS OVER THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM	10601-0001-32	9/27/2016	20	Direct the Arkansas State NRCS Office to make operational adjustment modifications to, or cancel, as appropriate, each of the 15 contracts identified as containing incompatible enhancements that occupy, or may occupy, the same space. Deobligate funds for the contracts as appropriate.	Open
OCFO	USDA FISCAL YEAR 2019 FIRST QUARTER DATA ACT SUBMISSION	11601-0001-12	11/8/2019	11	USDA agencies and offices, in coordination with OCFO, need to establish procedures to clearly identify their DATA Act reportable data related to files C, D1, and D2 for all non-FMMI source systems.	Open
OCFO	IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT TOOLS IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	50016-0001-23	9/28/2017	01	The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) should ensure that the language in DR 2280-001 requires disqualifications to be listed in the System for Award Management (SAM) as requested by Recommendation 6 of the prior 2010 report.	Open
OCFO	IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT TOOLS IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	50016-0001-23	9/28/2017	06	OCFO should amend DR 2280-001 to clearly define the roles and responsibilities for Suspension and Debarment Council members with respect to the implementation and oversight of the agency's suspension and debarment program.	Open

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<u>Agency/Staff Office</u>	<u>Audit Title</u>	<u>Audit Number</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
OCFO	IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT TOOLS IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	50016-0001-23	9/28/2017	08	OCFO should issue a reminder to all agencies clarifying that individuals participating in a not-covered transaction are eligible for suspension and debarment action(s), and that individuals or entities convicted of felony fraud offenses must be permanently debarred from all USDA programs.	Open
OCIO	DATA ENCRYPTION CONTROLS OVER PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ON USDA INFORMATION TECH	50501-0021-12	8/1/2019	01	Develop an effective oversight process to verify agencies are encrypting PII data at rest and in transit utilizing approved Federal encryption standards throughout the system's lifecycle.	Open
OCIO	DATA ENCRYPTION CONTROLS OVER PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ON USDA INFORMATION TECH	50501-0021-12	8/1/2019	02	Develop and implement PII scanning policies and procedures and provide tools to agencies for routinely scanning unencrypted PII data on their endpoints and networks.	Open
OCIO	IMPROPER USAGE OF USDA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	50501-0020-12	6/27/2019	02	OCIO, in coordination with Departmental Administration, needs to develop and implement a process, documented via policy, for ensuring contractors and other non-Government employees are held accountable to the same improper usage standards as employees	Open
OCIO	IMPROPER USAGE OF USDA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	50501-0020-12	6/27/2019	06	OCIO needs to implement procedures in accordance with Departmental policies, developed in response to recommendations 1 and 2, to ensure appropriate management officials such as supervisors, contracting officials, and supervisors of non-Government personnel are notified to make sure employees, contractors, or non-Government personnel that engage in improper usage of IT resources are properly tracked and monitored .	Open

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OCIO	FY 2018 FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY MODERNIZATION ACT AUDIT	50501-0018-12	10/12/2018	07	The Department should develop privacy policies and procedures in accordance with NIST and OMB A-130 requirements. In addition, OCIO and the Chief Privacy Officer should conduct a thorough gap analysis of existing USDA policy, procedures, and guidance, and publish an updated Privacy Act Compliance Departmental Directive to include current NIST and OMB Privacy Act related guidance and requirements.	Open
OCIO	SECURITY OVER SELECT USDA AGENCIES' NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS FY 2018	50501-0017-12	9/28/2018	01	Identify all USDA systems and devices that cannot fully utilize automated security tools and either update to a more compatible system or implement compensating controls.	Open
OCIO	SECURITY OVER SELECT USDA AGENCIES' NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS FY 2018	50501-0017-12	9/28/2018	03	Implement Department-wide network configuration management tools and processes to consistently enforce and maintain mandated security baselines for USDA network devices.	Open
OCIO	Improper Usage of USDA's Information Technology Resources 50501-0020-12(1)	50501-0020-12(1)	6/26/2018	02	Block applications that can circumvent the administrative rights requirement to install an application.	Open
OCIO	Improper Usage of USDA's Information Technology Resources 50501-0020-12(1)	50501-0020-12(1)	6/26/2018	03	Restrict non-business-related websites and applications.	Open
OCIO	Improper Usage of USDA's Information Technology Resources 50501-0020-12(1)	50501-0020-12(1)	6/26/2018	05	Implement the capability to decrypt and analyze network traffic for potential inappropriate and/or nefarious content.	Open
OCP	USDA FISCAL YEAR 2019 FIRST QUARTER DATA ACT SUBMISSION	11601-0001-12	11/8/2019	06	OCP needs to establish and implement a policy for reconciling SmartPay purchase card transactions to ensure USDA agencies and offices are properly assigning PIIDs and FAINs where applicable.	Open

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<u>Agency/Staff Office</u>	<u>Audit Title</u>	<u>Audit Number</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
OHRM	IMPROPER USAGE OF USDA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	50501-0020-12	6/27/2019	01	OHRM, in coordination with OCIO, needs to define improper usage activity and develop and implement a process, documented via policy, for ensuring all parties (supervisors, HR personnel, agencies' IT and incident handling teams) are properly notified of improper usage incidents.	Open
OHSEC	USDA'S CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND TRANSFER OF RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY	50701-0002-21	3/30/2020	01	The Office of Homeland Security should formalize and issue its draft USDA Visitor and Foreign National Vetting regulation.	Open
OHSEC	USDA'S CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND TRANSFER OF RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY	50701-0002-21	3/30/2020	02	OHS should ensure its regulations establish policies on how to manage and escort short-term visitors at USDA facilities and ensure all appropriate personnel are aware of potential risks and challenges associated with short-term visitors at its facilities.	Open
OHSEC	USDA'S CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND TRANSFER OF RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY	50701-0002-21	3/30/2020	03	OHS should require agencies to assess what type of access foreign nationals on assignment at a USDA facility should have to USDA networks and equipment and brief them on their obligations and responsibilities.	Open
OHSEC	USDA'S CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND TRANSFER OF RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY	50701-0002-21	3/30/2020	04	OHS should consult with OCS and other USDA agencies to determine which USDA employees are the most susceptible to foreign talent recruitment programs and consider whether the insider threat awareness and counterintelligence training should be expanded to additional USDA staff (beyond those with security clearance)	Open



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<u>Agency/Staff Office</u>	<u>Audit Title</u>	<u>Audit Number</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
OHSEC	Agroterrorism, Prevention, Detection and Response	61701-0001-21	3/27/2017	01	Develop and implement a written process for how OHSEC oversees and coordinates USDA’s agroterrorism prevention, detection, and response activities. At a minimum, this process should include steps to: (a) perform a USDA-wide vulnerability assessment for agroterrorism preparedness every two years, and (b) integrate, coordinate, and communicate response plans for agricultural disease emergencies and agroterrorist acts.	Open
OHSEC	Agroterrorism, Prevention, Detection and Response	61701-0001-21	3/27/2017	02	Obtain information from agencies about the purpose, frequency, and outcomes of exercises related to agroterrorism. Review after-action reports from agency exercises to: (a) identify lessons learned and best practices and distribute them to other appropriate USDA agencies, and (b) ensure that agencies implement corrective actions in a timely manner to resolve identified weaknesses.	Open
OHSEC	Agroterrorism, Prevention, Detection and Response	61701-0001-21	3/27/2017	05	Develop and implement a written process to maintain a USDA website to provide useful resources related to agroterrorism that is readily available to all USDA constituents. As a part of this process, conduct an analysis to identify agroterrorism prevention, detection, and response information available on USDA and other Federal websites that can be included on this website.	Open
OHSEC	Agroterrorism, Prevention, Detection and Response	61701-0001-21	3/27/2017	13	Request updates or negative responses from all USDA agencies to update the SSP.	Open
OPFM	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S MANAGEMENT OVER THE MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES	50099-0003-21	9/18/2018	12	OPFM should establish procedures to monitor and periodically review, at its discretion, agency certifications described in Recommendation 10.	Open

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<u>Agency/Staff Office</u>	<u>Audit Title</u>	<u>Audit Number</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
OSDBU	OSDBU'S CONTROLS OVER THE ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACT RECIPIENTS	50601-0003-23	9/28/2018	01	Inform GSA and SBA officials of the issues OIG found during this audit, including details on the specific contracts.	Open
OSDBU	OSDBU'S CONTROLS OVER THE ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACT RECIPIENTS	50601-0003-23	9/28/2018	02	Work with the USDA agencies to determine what actions need to be taken against the four businesses that could not support their disadvantaged status. Consider taking suspension and debarment actions to prevent other USDA agencies and other Federal Departments from contracting with those businesses.	Open
OSDBU	OSDBU'S CONTROLS OVER THE ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACT RECIPIENTS	50601-0003-23	9/28/2018	03	Develop and implement a process to review a sample of contracts at least annually to see if there is documentation to support small business and disadvantaged business status. Also, develop a process to periodically notify GSA and SBA officials regarding any businesses that USDA finds with inaccurate status information in SAM, or when information in FPDS and SAM does not match.	Open
RHS	MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING TENANT ELIGIBILITY	04601-0003-31	2/7/2020	03	Pursue recovery or take other action as appropriate for the \$3,973 in unauthorized assistance and other errors we identified.	Open
RHS	MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING TENANT ELIGIBILITY	04601-0003-31	2/7/2020	05	Schedule and complete triennial supervisory reviews on the MFH properties that have not received a supervisory review in the previous 3 years.	Open
RHS	MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING TENANT ELIGIBILITY	04601-0003-31	2/7/2020	08	Review MFIS data, including legacy data from time periods prior to implementation of the data checks, to ensure compliance with current data rules.	Open

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RMA	ANNUAL FORAGE PROGRAM AND FOLLOW UP ON PASTURE, RANGELAND, FORAGE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS	05601-0006-31	7/26/2019	01	Work with NOAA to develop a plan to implement quality controls for measurements used in rainfall index insurance plans that will anticipate, mitigate, and address the risk of making payments based on data generated from potentially tampered rain gauges.	Open
RMA	ANNUAL FORAGE PROGRAM AND FOLLOW UP ON PASTURE, RANGELAND, FORAGE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS	05601-0006-31	7/26/2019	02	Enter into a MOU with NOAA that clearly delineates roles and responsibilities in gathering, analyzing, and protecting information. Update rain index insurance plan policies accordingly.	Open
RMA	RMA'S UTILIZATION OF CONTRACTED DATA MINING RESULTS	05601-0005-31	12/19/2017	02	Develop and implement a process to analyze the data from Recommendation 1 to identify potential problem areas and weaknesses. Design and implement controls to mitigate identified problem areas and weaknesses.	Open

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**GAO Recommendations**

*Table GAO-IG Act-2. Open GAO Audit Recommendations*

Agency/ Staff Office	Audit Title	Audit Number	Date of Publication	Recommendation	Status
AMS	U.S. Department of Agriculture: Additional Data Analysis Could Enhance Monitoring of U.S. Cattle Market	GAO-18-296	4/10/2018	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the AMS administrator to ensure that P&SP routinely conducts in-depth analysis of the transaction data that it collects. Such analysis could include but not be limited to examining competition levels in different areas of the country. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
AMS	Agriculture Spending: Opportunities Exist for USDA to Identify Successes and Challenges of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program to Inform Future Efforts	GAO-20-711R	9/16/2020	The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture should direct the Agricultural Marketing Service to conduct an evaluation of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program after the third round of the program. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
AMS	COVID-19: Sustained Federal Action is Crucial as Pandemic Enters Its Second Year	GAO-21-387	3/31/2021	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service to issue guidance—such as an acquisition alert or a reminder to contracting officials—on the use of the COVID-19 National Interest Action code for the Farmers to Families Food Box Program or successor food distribution program to ensure it accurately captures COVID-19-related contract obligations in support of the program. See Federal Contracts and Agreements for COVID-19 enclosure. <b>(Recommendation 13)</b>	Open

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<b>AMS</b>	COVID-19: Sustained Federal Action is Crucial as Pandemic Enters Its Second Year	GAO-21-387	3/31/2021	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service to assess the contracting personnel needed to fully execute the award and administration of existing contracts in support of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program or successor future food distribution program, and take the necessary steps to ensure it has adequate contracting staff in place to award and administer any future contracts for the program. See Federal Contracts and Agreements for COVID-19 enclosure. <b>(Recommendation 14)</b>	Open
<b>APHIS</b>	Genetically Engineered Crops: USDA Needs to Enhance Oversight and Better Understand Impacts of Unintended Mixing with Other Crops	GAO-16-241	3/15/2016	To improve USDA's ability to better understand the economic impacts of unintended mixing of GE and other crops, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to work with all relevant USDA stakeholders, including APHIS and the Organic Working Group, to determine what additional information should be sought in future organic surveys, such as the costs of reshipping and re-storing shipments rejected because of unintended GE presence, as well as the costs associated with finding new buyers for such shipments. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
<b>APHIS</b>	Genetically Engineered Crops: USDA Needs to Enhance Oversight and Better Understand Impacts of Unintended Mixing with Other Crops	GAO-16-241	3/15/2016	To improve USDA's ability to better understand the economic impacts of unintended mixing of GE and other crops, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of NASS to include producers, growing identity-preserved crops, in addition to organic producers in USDA's survey efforts. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open

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APHIS	High-Containment Laboratories: Comprehensive and Up-to-Date Policies and Stronger Oversight Mechanisms Needed to Improve Safety	GAO-16-305	3/21/2016	To ensure that federal departments and agencies have comprehensive and up-to-date policies and stronger oversight mechanisms in place for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories and are fully addressing weaknesses identified after laboratory safety lapses, the Secretary of Agriculture should revise existing department policies for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories to contain specific requirements for reporting laboratory incidents to senior department officials, including the types of incidents that should be reported, to whom, and when, or direct the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service to develop agency policies that contain these requirements. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
APHIS	High-Containment Laboratories: Comprehensive and Up-to-Date Policies and Stronger Oversight Mechanisms Needed to Improve Safety	GAO-16-305	3/21/2016	To ensure that federal departments and agencies have comprehensive and up-to-date policies and stronger oversight mechanisms in place for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories and are fully addressing weaknesses identified after laboratory safety lapses, the Secretary of Agriculture should review and update outdated department policies for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories and direct the Administrators of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agricultural Research Service to update their policies and, in the case of APHIS, establish a regular review schedule. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
APHIS	High-Containment Laboratories: Comprehensive and Up-to-Date Policies and Stronger Oversight Mechanisms Needed to Improve Safety	GAO-16-305	3/21/2016	To ensure that federal departments and agencies have comprehensive and up-to-date policies and stronger oversight mechanisms in place for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories and are fully addressing weaknesses identified after laboratory safety lapses, the Secretary of Agriculture should routinely analyze results of the	Open

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				department's laboratory inspections and incident reports to identify potential trends that may highlight recurring laboratory safety or security issues and share lessons learned with laboratory personnel. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	
APHIS	High-Containment Laboratories: Comprehensive and Up-to-Date Policies and Stronger Oversight Mechanisms Needed to Improve Safety	GAO-16-305	3/21/2016	To ensure that federal departments and agencies have comprehensive and up-to-date policies and stronger oversight mechanisms in place for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories and are fully addressing weaknesses identified after laboratory safety lapses, the Secretary of Agriculture should require routine reporting of the results of department, agency, and select agent laboratory inspections to senior department officials. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
APHIS	High-Containment Laboratories: Comprehensive and Up-to-Date Policies and Stronger Oversight Mechanisms Needed to Improve Safety	GAO-16-305	3/21/2016	To ensure that federal departments and agencies have comprehensive and up-to-date policies and stronger oversight mechanisms in place for managing hazardous biological agents in high-containment laboratories and are fully addressing weaknesses identified after laboratory safety lapses, the Secretary of Agriculture should require routine reporting of incidents at agency laboratories to senior department officials. <b>Recommendation 5</b>	Open
APHIS	Antibiotic Resistance: More Information Needed to Oversee Use of Medically Important Drugs in Food Animals	GAO-17-192	3/2/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of APHIS and the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service to work with the Director of CDC to develop a framework for deciding when on-farm investigations are warranted during outbreaks. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
APHIS	High-Containment Laboratories: Coordinated Actions Needed to Enhance the Select Agent Program's	GAO-18-145	10/19/2017	To improve technical expertise and overcome fragmentation, the APHIS director of the Select Agent Program should work with CDC to develop a joint workforce plan that assesses workforce and training needs for the program as a whole. This assessment	Open

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	Oversight of Hazardous Pathogens			should be done in conjunction with the development of the strategic plan. <b>(Recommendation 11)</b>	
<b>APHIS</b>	Animal Use in Federal Research: Agencies Share Information, but Reporting and Data Quality Could Be Strengthened	GAO-18-459	5/31/2018	The Administrator of APHIS should develop a timeline for (1) defining birds that are not bred for research and that are covered by the Animal Welfare Act, and (2) requiring that research facilities report to APHIS their use of birds covered by the act. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>APHIS</b>	Animal Use in Federal Research: Agencies Share Information, but Reporting and Data Quality Could Be Strengthened	GAO-18-459	5/31/2018	The Administrator of APHIS should instruct federal agencies to report their use of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act in federal facilities located outside of the United States. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
<b>APHIS</b>	Animal Use in Federal Research: Agencies Share Information, but Reporting and Data Quality Could Be Strengthened	GAO-18-459	5/31/2018	In developing the definition of field studies, the Administrator of APHIS should provide research facilities with clear criteria for identifying field studies that are covered by the Animal Welfare Act's regulations and that facilities should report to APHIS as well as field studies that facilities should not report. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
<b>APHIS</b>	Foot-and-Mouth Disease: USDA's Efforts to Prepare for a Potential Outbreak Could Be Strengthened	GAO-19-103	3/12/2019	The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service should follow the agency's standard operating procedures (SOP) to prioritize corrective actions for FMD preparedness. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>APHIS</b>	Foot-and-Mouth Disease: USDA's Efforts to Prepare for a Potential Outbreak Could Be Strengthened	GAO-19-103	3/12/2019	The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service should follow the agency's SOP to monitor progress and track completion of corrective actions for FMD preparedness. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open



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<b>ARS</b>	Federal Facility Security: Selected Agencies Should Improve Methods for Assessing and Monitoring Risk	GAO-18-72	10/26/2017	To improve agencies' physical security programs' alignment with the ISC Risk Management Process for Federal Facilities and Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government for information and monitoring, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service and the Chief of the Forest Service to implement and monitor a long-term assessment schedule with key milestones to ensure that higher-level facilities are reassessed at least once every 3 years. <b>(Recommendation 8)</b>	Open
<b>ARS</b>	Federal Research: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Public Access to Research Results	GAO-20-81	11/21/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should complete development of guidance and provide training to agency officials or others involved in reviewing the merits of researchers' data management plans. <b>(Recommendation 12)</b>	Open
<b>ARS</b>	Federal Research: Additional Actions Needed to Improve Public Access to Research Results	GAO-20-81	11/21/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should develop and implement a mechanism to ensure researcher compliance with the public access plan and associated requirements. <b>(Recommendation 21)</b>	Open
<b>Assistant Secretary for Administration</b>	USDA Administrative Services: Streamlining Efforts Ongoing, but Actions Needed to Monitor Progress, Identify Benefits, and Share Lessons Learned	GAO-16-168	3/15/2016	To strengthen USDA's ability to better manage and monitor the progress of the Blueprint, including efforts to streamline and improve administrative services, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Administration to develop a complete list identifying all of the Blueprint efforts under way and document key information needed to monitor their progress, such as status of implementation, time frames for completion, and related performance measures. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>Assistant Secretary for Administration</b>	USDA Administrative Services: Streamlining Efforts Ongoing, but Actions Needed to Monitor Progress,	GAO-16-168	3/15/2016	To strengthen USDA's ability to better manage and monitor the progress of the Blueprint, including efforts to streamline and improve administrative services, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Administration to reexamine	Open

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	Identify Benefits, and Share Lessons Learned			the adequacy of the staff and budget resources committed to the day-to-day management of the Blueprint, and further leverage existing departmental resources as needed. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	
<b>Assistant Secretary for Administration</b>	USDA Administrative Services: Streamlining Efforts Ongoing, but Actions Needed to Monitor Progress, Identify Benefits, and Share Lessons Learned	GAO-16-168	3/15/2016	To improve USDA's efforts to identify and track the benefits of the Blueprint, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Administration to document the methodologies used to calculate any savings claimed for the Blueprint effort to ensure any such estimate is based on quality information. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
<b>Assistant Secretary for Administration</b>	USDA Administrative Services: Streamlining Efforts Ongoing, but Actions Needed to Monitor Progress, Identify Benefits, and Share Lessons Learned	GAO-16-168	3/15/2016	To improve USDA's efforts to identify and track the benefits of the Blueprint, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Administration to systematically identify and track nonfinancial benefits from USDA's Blueprint efforts to better gauge the Blueprint's progress and more fully report its results. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
<b>Assistant Secretary for Administration</b>	USDA Administrative Services: Streamlining Efforts Ongoing, but Actions Needed to Monitor Progress, Identify Benefits, and Share Lessons Learned	GAO-16-168	3/15/2016	To enhance USDA's efforts to share lessons learned from the Blueprint, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Administration to maintain and promote existing web-based collaboration tools, including keeping information in these tools current, for agencies and staff offices to report their experiences and lessons learned from their Blueprint efforts to help strengthen internal information sharing and inform future efforts. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
<b>DA</b>	USDA Administrative Services: More Could Be Done to Assess Effectiveness and Impact of Business Centers	GAO-20-243	2/19/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct Departmental Administration to work with the mission areas to develop department-level outcome-oriented performance goals and related measures for the business centers, and use them to assess the effectiveness and impact of the business center reforms. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open

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<b>DA/OPFM</b>	Federal Property: Improved Monitoring, Oversight, and Data Would Help Understand Effects of Providing Property to Non-Federal Recipients	GAO-20-101	12/20/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Office of Property and Fleet Management to consistently monitor property provided to non-federal recipients within 1 year of receipt, and to ensure property is being used for its intended purpose 1 year after initial monitoring. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>DM/OPFM</b>	Federal Property: Improved Monitoring, Oversight, and Data Would Help Understand Effects of Providing Property to Non-Federal Recipients	GAO-20-101	12/20/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Office of Property and Fleet Management to establish clear processes to oversee property programs, including excess property provided to non-federal recipients across the agency. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
<b>DM/OHRM</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture: Workforce Decisions Could Benefit from Better Linkage to Missions and Use of Leading Practices	GAO-14-288	3/31/2014	To ensure appropriate levels of employees' supervision and guidance for the workforces of USDA's service center agencies, consistent with OPM guidance, the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief Human Capital Officer, should revise departmental policy targeting a uniform supervisory ratio so that the service center agencies can identify appropriate supervisory ratios based on a documented analysis of their specific customer needs and workload distribution. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>DM/OSDBU</b>	Small Business Contracting: Actions Needed to Demonstrate and Better Review Compliance with Select Requirements for Small Business Advocates	GAO-17-675	8/25/2017	To address demonstrated noncompliance with section 15(k) of the Small Business Act, as amended, the Secretary of Agriculture should comply with sections 15(k)(2), (k)(15), and (k)(17) or report to Congress on why the agency has not complied, including seeking any statutory flexibilities or exceptions believed appropriate. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open

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<b>FAS</b>	International Food Assistance: Agencies Should Ensure Timely Documentation of Required Market Analyses and Assess Local Markets for Program Effects	GAO-17-640	7/13/2017	To ensure the transparency and accountability of USDA's selection of countries to receive in-kind food aid, the Secretary of Agriculture should develop guidance to require documentation of the reasons for providing funding to countries that were not on the priority list. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
<b>FAS</b>	International Food Assistance: Agencies Should Ensure Timely Documentation of Required Market Analyses and Assess Local Markets for Program Effects	GAO-17-640	7/13/2017	To help ensure that, consistent with the Bellmon amendment, the provision of U.S. in-kind food aid does not result in a substantial disincentive to, or interference with, domestic production or marketing in countries receiving in-kind food aid, the Secretary of Agriculture should monitor markets during implementation of McGovern-Dole projects to identify any potential negative effects, such as unusual changes in prices. <b>(Recommendation 7)</b>	Open
<b>FAS</b>	International Food Assistance: Agencies Should Ensure Timely Documentation of Required Market Analyses and Assess Local Markets for Program Effects	GAO-17-640	7/13/2017	To help ensure that, consistent with the Bellmon amendment, the provision of U.S. in-kind food aid does not result in a substantial disincentive to, or interference with, domestic production or marketing in countries receiving in-kind food aid, the Secretary of Agriculture should evaluate markets after the completion of McGovern-Dole and Food for Progress projects to determine whether markets were negatively affected during project implementation or after project completion. <b>(Recommendation 8)</b>	Open
<b>FAS</b>	Inter-American Organizations: U.S. Agencies Support Oversight Mechanisms but Could Enhance Their Monitoring of U.S. Assistance Agreements	GAO-18-219	12/29/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that USDA includes all key monitoring provisions specified by applicable guidance as part of agreements with inter-American organizations. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open

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FAS	Inter-American Organizations: U.S. Agencies Support Oversight Mechanisms but Could Enhance Their Monitoring of U.S. Assistance Agreements	GAO-18-219	12/29/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that USDA officials have full documentation of required monitoring activities in agreements with inter-American organizations. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
FNS	Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards	GAO-17-159	2/16/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services to design policies and procedures to reasonably assure that all award recipients required to submit single audit reports do so in accordance with OMB guidance. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards	GAO-17-159	2/16/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services to revise policies and procedures to reasonably assure that management decisions contain the required elements and are issued timely in accordance with OMB guidance. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FNS	Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards	GAO-17-159	2/16/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services to design and implement policies and procedures for identifying and managing high-risk and recurring single audit findings using a risk-based approach. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
FNS	Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards	GAO-17-159	2/16/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretary for Rural Development to design policies and procedures to reasonably assure that all award recipients required to submit single audit reports do so in accordance with OMB guidance. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
FNS	Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards	GAO-17-159	2/16/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretary for Rural Development to revise policies and procedures to reasonably assure that management decisions contain the required elements and are issued	Open

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				timely in accordance with OMB guidance. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	
FNS	Single Audits: Improvements Needed in Selected Agencies' Oversight of Federal Awards	GAO-17-159	2/16/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretary for Rural Development to design and implement policies and procedures for identifying and managing high-risk and recurring single audit findings using a risk-based approach. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
FNS	Summer Meals: Actions Needed to Improve Participation Estimates and Address Program Challenges	GAO-18-369	5/31/2018	The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) should improve its estimate of children's participation in the SFSP by focusing on addressing, at a minimum, data reliability issues caused by variations in the number of operating days of meal sites and in the months in which states see the greatest number of meals served. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Summer Meals: Actions Needed to Improve Participation Estimates and Address Program Challenges	GAO-18-369	5/31/2018	The Administrator of FNS should communicate to all SFSP stakeholders the circumstances it considers in approving requests for flexibility with respect to the requirement that children consume SFSP meals on-site in areas that have experienced crime and violence, taking into account the feasibility of accessing data needed for approval, to ensure safe delivery of meals to children. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FNS	Summer Meals: Actions Needed to Improve Participation Estimates and Address Program Challenges	GAO-18-369	5/31/2018	The Administrator of FNS should evaluate and annually report to Congress, as required by statute, on its use of waivers and demonstration projects to grant states and sponsors flexibility with respect to the requirement that children consume SFSP meals on-site in areas experiencing crime or violence, to improve its understanding of the use and impact of granting these flexibilities on meeting program goals. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open

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FNS	Summer Meals: Actions Needed to Improve Participation Estimates and Address Program Challenges	GAO-18-369	5/31/2018	The Administrator of FNS should disseminate information about existing flexibilities available to state agencies to streamline administrative requirements for sponsors participating in the SFSP and other child nutrition programs to help lessen the administrative burden. For example, FNS could redistribute existing guidance to state agencies that explains available flexibilities and encourage information sharing. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: More Complete and Accurate Information Needed on Employment and Training Programs	GAO-19-56	11/20/2018	The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) should identify and disseminate strategies to states and service providers for increasing the participation of SNAP recipients referred to the SNAP E&T program. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: More Complete and Accurate Information Needed on Employment and Training Programs	GAO-19-56	11/20/2018	The Administrator of FNS should take additional steps to address data reliability issues in the state-reported data on SNAP E&T participant characteristics and outcomes, including steps to address imprecise instructions on data collection forms and staff confusion at the state level. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: More Complete and Accurate Information Needed on Employment and Training Programs	GAO-19-56	11/20/2018	The Administrator of FNS should determine and communicate to states how the agency will use newly reported outcome and participant characteristics data to assess the effectiveness of state SNAP E&T programs. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
FNS	Food Insecurity: Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits	GAO-19-95	12/21/2018	The Administrator of FNS should make information on their website regarding student SNAP eligibility requirements easier to understand and more accessible, as a resource for colleges and state SNAP agencies. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open

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FNS	Food Insecurity: Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits	GAO-19-95	12/21/2018	The Administrator of FNS should coordinate with its regional offices to collect and review information about existing SNAP flexibilities and examples of approaches state SNAP agencies are taking to assist eligible college students to access SNAP benefits, and share such information with state SNAP agencies. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Disseminating Information on Successful Use of Data Analytics Could Help States Manage Fraud Risks	GAO-19-115	10/2/2018	Building on ongoing efforts, the Administrator of FNS should develop and implement additional methods to widely distribute information to state agencies on an ongoing basis about successful efforts to adopt data analytics and strategies to leverage existing data, technology, and staff resources to enhance data analytics. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Actions Needed to Better Measure and Address Retailer Trafficking	GAO-19-167	12/14/2018	The Administrator of FNS should present the uncertainty around its retailer trafficking estimates in future reports by, for example, including the full range of the estimates in the report body and executive summary. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Actions Needed to Better Measure and Address Retailer Trafficking	GAO-19-167	12/14/2018	The Administrator of FNS should continue efforts to improve the agency's retailer trafficking estimates by evaluating (1) whether the factors used to identify stores for possible investigation could help address the bias in its sample, and (2) the accuracy of its assumption of the percentage of SNAP benefits that are trafficked by different types of stores. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Actions Needed to Better Measure and Address Retailer Trafficking	GAO-19-167	12/14/2018	The Administrator of FNS should assess the benefits and costs of reauthorizing a sample of high-risk stores more frequently than other stores, use the assessment to determine the appropriate scope and time frames for reauthorizing high-risk stores moving forward, and document this decision in policy and on its website. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open



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FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Actions Needed to Better Measure and Address Retailer Trafficking	GAO-19-167	12/14/2018	The Administrator of FNS should move forward with plans to increase penalties for retailer trafficking. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
FNS	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Actions Needed to Better Measure and Address Retailer Trafficking	GAO-19-167	12/14/2018	The Administrator of FNS should establish performance measures for its trafficking prevention activities. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
FNS	School Meals Programs: USDA Has Reported Taking Some Steps to Reduce Improper Payments but Should Comprehensively Assess Fraud Risks	GAO-19-389	5/21/2019	The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service should establish a process to plan and conduct regular fraud risk assessments for the school meals programs that align with the leading practices in the Fraud Risk Framework. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Nutrition Education: USDA Actions Needed to Assess Effectiveness, Coordinate Programs, and Leverage Expertise	GAO-19-572	7/25/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should develop a cybersecurity risk management strategy that includes the key elements identified in this report. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FNS	Nutrition Education: USDA Actions Needed to Assess Effectiveness, Coordinate Programs, and Leverage Expertise	GAO-19-572	7/25/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretaries for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and for Research, Education, and Economics to develop a formal mechanism, such as a designated individual or group of individuals, for providing cross-department leadership for USDA's nutrition education efforts and facilitating cross-program information sharing. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open

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FNS	Nutrition Education: USDA Actions Needed to Assess Effectiveness, Coordinate Programs, and Leverage Expertise	GAO-19-572	7/25/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Under Secretaries for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services and for Research, Education, and Economics to identify and implement mechanisms to fully leverage the department's nutrition expertise for its nutrition education efforts. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
FNS	Nutrition Assistance Programs: Agencies Could Do More to Help Address the Nutritional Needs of Older Adults	GAO-20-18	11/21/2019	The Administrator of FNS should take steps to improve its oversight of CACFP meals provided in adult day care centers. For example, FNS could amend its approach for determining federal onsite reviews of CACFP meal providers to more consistently include adult day care centers. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
FNS	Nutrition Assistance Programs: Agencies Could Do More to Help Address the Nutritional Needs of Older Adults	GAO-20-18	11/21/2019	The Administrator of FNS should take steps to better disseminate existing information that could help state and local entities involved in providing CACFP meals meet the varying nutritional needs of older adult participants, as well as continue to identify additional promising practices or other information on meal accommodations to share with CACFP entities. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
FNS	Payment Integrity: Selected Agencies Should Improve Efforts to Evaluate Effectiveness of Corrective Actions to Reduce Improper Payments	GAO-20-336	4/1/2020	The Administrator of FNS should develop and implement a process, documented in policies and procedures, to analyze SNAP state-level root causes to identify potential similarities among the states and develop and implement SNAP agency-level corrective actions, if appropriate, to help address them. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FNS	Payment Integrity: Selected Agencies Should Improve Efforts to Evaluate Effectiveness of Corrective Actions to Reduce Improper Payments	GAO-20-336	4/1/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should revise USDA's procedures to include processes for monitoring the progress and measuring the effectiveness of improper payment corrective actions. The process for measuring the effectiveness of corrective actions should clearly demonstrate the effect USDA's corrective actions have on reducing improper payments. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open

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FNS	COVID-19: Sustained Federal Action is Crucial as Pandemic Enters Its Second Year	GAO-21-387	3/31/2021	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service (1) provides sufficient context to help stakeholders and the public understand and interpret data on federal nutrition assistance programs during the pandemic and (2) discloses potential sources of error that may affect data quality during the pandemic, such as manual processing. For example, the agency could publish key information from its internal communications plan that it developed for the January 2021 data release and include additional table notes in subsequent data releases to help explain these issues. See Nutrition Assistance enclosure.	Open
<b>Food Safety</b>	Food Safety: FDA and USDA Could Strengthen Existing Efforts to Prepare for Oversight of Cell-Cultured Meat	GAO-20-325	4/7/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, should more fully incorporate the seven leading practices for effective collaboration in the agencies' interagency agreement for the joint oversight of cell-cultured meat. <b>(Recommendation 17)</b>	Open
<b>Food Safety</b>	Food Safety: FDA and USDA Could Strengthen Existing Efforts to Prepare for Oversight of Cell-Cultured Meat	GAO-20-325	4/7/2020	As the three cell-cultured meat working groups move forward, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, should more fully incorporate the seven leading practices for effective collaboration, such as identifying specific outcomes and a way to monitor and evaluate progress toward outcomes. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
FS	Hardrock Mining: BLM and Forest Service Hold Billions in Financial Assurances, but More Readily Available Information Could Assist with Monitoring	GAO-19-436R	9/18/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Forest Service to require forest and district offices to enter the date of the last review in the Natural Resource Manager data system. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open

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FS	Unauthorized Grazing: Actions Needed to Improve Tracking and Deterrence Efforts	GAO-16-559	7/7/2016	To improve the effectiveness of the Forest Service's efforts to track and deter unauthorized grazing, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief of the Forest Service to adopt an unauthorized grazing penalty structure that is based, similar to BLM's, on the current commercial value of forage. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
FS	Federal Timber Sales: Forest Service and BLM Should Review Their Regulations and Policies Related to Timber Export and Substitution	GAO-18-593	8/15/2018	The Chief of the Forest Service should determine whether new regulations governing timber export and substitution are appropriate. If the agency determines new regulations are appropriate, it should issue them in accordance with the 1997 act, in consultation with BLM. Otherwise, the agency should seek legislative relief from the act's requirement. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
FS	Federal Timber Sales: Forest Service and BLM Should Review Their Regulations and Policies Related to Timber Export and Substitution	GAO-18-593	8/15/2018	The Chief of the Forest Service should review agency policies for continued relevance and effectiveness in addressing the risk of illegal timber export and substitution, and based on that review--and in accordance with applicable regulations--should issue new policies as necessary. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
FS	Hardrock Mining: BLM and Forest Service Hold Billions in Financial Assurances, but More Readily Available Information Could Assist with Monitoring	GAO-19-436R	9/18/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Forest Service to develop a centralized mechanism to record the current estimated cost of reclamation for a mining operation so that this information is readily available for comparison with the financial assurance held. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
FS	Native American Cultural Resources: Improved Information Could Enhance Agencies' Efforts to Analyze and Respond to Risks of Theft and Damage	GAO-21-110	3/4/2021	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief of the Forest Service to take steps to identify and obtain the information needed to target its efforts for analyzing and addressing risks to Native American cultural resources and share any promising practices with the Departmental Consulting Archeologist. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open

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<b>FS</b>	Disaster Response: Agencies Should Assess Contracting Workforce Needs and Purchase Card Fraud Risk	GAO-21-42	11/24/2020	The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture should direct the Forest Service to update its fraud risk profile for the purchase card program to align with the leading practices in the Fraud Risk Framework and include an assessment of how, if at all, the risk profile differs for purchase card use in support of disaster response. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
<b>FSA</b>	Farm Programs: Additional Steps Needed to Help Prevent Payments to Participants Whose Incomes Exceed Limits	GAO-13-741	8/29/2013	To further improve agency controls that help prevent payments to participants whose incomes exceed eligibility limits, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of FSA to implement a process to verify that accountants' and attorneys' statements accurately reflect participants' incomes as reported on income tax returns and supporting documentation or other equivalent documents. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
<b>FSA</b>	Bee Health: USDA and EPA Should Take Additional Actions to Address Threats to Bee Populations	GAO-16-220	2/10/2016	To measure their contribution to the White House Pollinator Health Task Force strategy's goal to restore and enhance 7 million acres of pollinator habitat, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrators of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop an improved method, within available resources, to track conservation program acres that contribute to the goal. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	CLOSED/NOT IMPLEMENTED
<b>FSA</b>	Farm Programs: USDA Should Take Additional Steps to Ensure Compliance with Wetland Conservation Provisions	GAO-21-241	4/2/2021	The FSA Administrator should strengthen agency guidance to specify what constitutes adequate justification and documentation for decisions to grant good-faith waivers. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open

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<b>FSA/NRCS</b>	Bee Health: USDA and EPA Should Take Additional Actions to Address Threats to Bee Populations	GAO-16-220	2/10/2016	To better ensure the effectiveness of USDA's bee habitat conservation efforts, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrators of FSA and NRCS to, within available resources, increase evaluation of the effectiveness of their efforts to restore and enhance bee habitat plantings across the nation, including identifying gaps in expertise and technical assistance funding available to field offices. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	CLOSED/NOT IMPLEMENTED
<b>FSIS</b>	Managing for Results: Greater Transparency Needed in Public Reporting on the Quality of Performance Information for Selected Agencies' Priority Goals	GAO-15-788	9/10/2015	To improve the public reporting about how agencies are ensuring the quality of performance information used to measure progress towards their priority goals, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior, and Labor, and the Administrator of NASA should more fully address GPRAMA requirements and OMB guidance by working with OMB to describe on Performance.gov how they are ensuring the quality of performance information used to measure progress towards their APGs. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
<b>FSIS</b>	Managing for Results: Greater Transparency Needed in Public Reporting on the Quality of Performance Information for Selected Agencies' Priority Goals	GAO-15-788	9/10/2015	To improve the public reporting about how agencies are ensuring the quality of performance information used to measure progress towards their priority goals, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Defense, Interior, and Labor, and the Administrator of NASA should more fully address GPRAMA requirements and OMB guidance by describing in their agencies' annual performance plans and reports how they are ensuring the quality of performance information used to measure progress towards their APGs. <b>(Recommendation 7)</b>	Open
<b>FSIS</b>	Imported Seafood Safety: FDA and USDA Could Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Unsafe Drug Residues	GAO-17-443	9/15/2017	The Administrator of FSIS should require as part of an equivalence determination that countries exporting catfish to the United States include in their residue monitoring plans the drugs of concern to FSIS and the	Open

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				corresponding maximum residue levels. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	
<b>FSIS</b>	Imported Seafood Safety: FDA and USDA Could Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Unsafe Drug Residues	GAO-17-443	9/15/2017	The Administrator of FSIS should coordinate and communicate with FDA in developing drug residue testing methods and corresponding maximum residue levels for imported catfish that may also be applicable to other imported seafood. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
<b>FSIS</b>	Workplace Safety and Health: Better Outreach, Collaboration, and Information Needed to Help Protect Workers at Meat and Poultry Plants	GAO-18-12	11/9/2017	The FSIS Administrator should work with OSHA to assess the implementation of the MOU and make any needed changes to ensure improved collaboration; and set specific timeframes for periodic evaluations of the MOU. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
<b>FSIS</b>	Workplace Safety and Health: Better Outreach, Collaboration, and Information Needed to Help Protect Workers at Meat and Poultry Plants	GAO-18-12	11/9/2017	The FSIS Administrator should develop a process to regularly share the worker safety information it collects during its review of new chemicals with FSIS inspectors, plant management, OSHA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
<b>FSIS</b>	Food Safety: USDA Should Take Further Action to Reduce Pathogens in Meat and Poultry Products	GAO-18-272	3/19/2018	The Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) should document the agency's process for deciding which products to consider for new pathogen standards, including the basis on which such decisions should be made. <b>(Recommendation 1).</b>	Open
<b>FSIS</b>	Food Safety: USDA Should Take Further Action to Reduce Pathogens in Meat and Poultry Products	GAO-18-272	3/19/2018	The Administrator of FSIS should set time frames for determining what pathogen standards or additional policies are needed to address pathogens in beef carcasses, ground beef, pork cuts, and ground pork. <b>(Recommendation 2).</b>	Open

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FSIS	Food Safety: USDA Should Take Further Action to Reduce Pathogens in Meat and Poultry Products	GAO-18-272	3/19/2018	The Administrator of FSIS should include available information on the effectiveness of on-farm practices to reduce the level of pathogens as it finalizes its guidelines for controlling Salmonella in hogs. <b>(Recommendation 3).</b>	Open
NRCS	Agricultural Conservation: USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program Could Be Improved to Optimize Benefits	GAO-17-225	4/13/2017	To help achieve EQIP's purpose of optimizing environmental benefits, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to direct EQIP program managers to coordinate with the leaders of USDA's CEAP to help ensure that CEAP studies consider the practical limitations and trade-offs faced by program managers and to provide program managers with better information to target EQIP funds where they will optimize environmental benefits. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
NRCS	Agricultural Conservation: USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program Could Be Improved to Optimize Benefits	GAO-17-225	4/13/2017	To help achieve EQIP's purpose of optimizing environmental benefits, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to revise guidance on state offices' EQIP allocation processes, stipulating that data on environmental concerns, where available, should be a primary factor influencing allocations within states. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
NRCS	Agricultural Conservation: USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program Could Be Improved to Optimize Benefits	GAO-17-225	4/13/2017	To help achieve EQIP's purpose of optimizing environmental benefits, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish a review process at the regional level for review and concurrence of EQIP payment rates above a threshold (e.g., rates greater than 50 percent, with justification). <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open



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NRCS	Agricultural Conservation: USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program Could Be Improved to Optimize Benefits	GAO-17-225	4/13/2017	To help achieve EQIP's purpose of optimizing environmental benefits, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to modify guidance and ranking tools so that they more accurately value an EQIP application's anticipated environmental benefits relative to estimated costs. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
NRCS	Farm Programs: USDA Should Take Additional Steps to Ensure Compliance with Wetland Conservation Provisions	GAO-21-241	4/2/2021	The Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service should oversee state offices to ensure that they conduct quality control reviews of wetland determinations as directed in the agency's manual. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
NRCS	Farm Programs: USDA Should Take Additional Steps to Ensure Compliance with Wetland Conservation Provisions	GAO-21-241	4/2/2021	The Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service should update the template for appeal decision letters accompanying final wetland determinations to stipulate that the letters must include specific facts providing the basis for the determinations, as called for in the agency's appeals manual. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
NRCS	Farm Programs: USDA Should Take Additional Steps to Ensure Compliance with Wetland Conservation Provisions	GAO-21-241	4/2/2021	The Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service should clarify agency guidance on how wetland specialists are to apply the agency's procedures for wetland determinations, particularly related to the best-drained condition standard. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
NRCS	Farm Programs: USDA Should Take Additional Steps to Ensure Compliance with Wetland Conservation Provisions	GAO-21-241	4/2/2021	The Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service should clarify guidance on the annual compliance check (in its National Food Security Act Manual) to ensure that a risk-based approach is used in selecting a sample, which could include using crop acreage reports and other sources of information to identify anomalies associated with higher-risk tracts. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open

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OASCR	Sexual Harassment In STEM Research: Agencies Have Taken Actions But Need Compliant Procedures, Overall Plans, and Better Collaboration	GAO-20-187	3/19/2020	The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to publicize promising practices for Title IX compliance on its websites for their university grantees. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
OASCR	Sexual Harassment In STEM Research: Agencies Have Taken Actions But Need Compliant Procedures, Overall Plans, and Better Collaboration	GAO-20-187	3/19/2020	The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to clarify on its website that individuals on USDA-funded grants can file Title IX complaints through the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights—including clarifying who is considered "customers." <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
OASCR	Sexual Harassment In STEM Research: Agencies Have Taken Actions But Need Compliant Procedures, Overall Plans, and Better Collaboration	GAO-20-187	3/19/2020	The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to assess the feasibility of receiving and reviewing concerns of sex discrimination—including sexual harassment—and communicating to individuals on agency-funded grants the option to notify the agency of these concerns, outside of the Title IX complaint process. <b>(Recommendation 10)</b>	Open
OASCR	Environmental Justice: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning, Coordination, and Methods to Assess Progress	GAO-19-543	9/16/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should issue a progress report on the department's environmental justice efforts each year. <b>(Recommendation 10)</b>	Open
OASCR	Sexual Harassment In STEM Research: Agencies Have Taken Actions But Need Compliant Procedures, Overall Plans, and Better Collaboration	GAO-20-187	3/19/2020	The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture should direct the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to finalize and publish revised Title IX complaint procedures. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open

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OASCR	Sexual Harassment In STEM Research: Agencies Have Taken Actions But Need Compliant Procedures, Overall Plans, and Better Collaboration	GAO-20-187	3/19/2020	The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture should establish goals and an overall plan to assess all of the agency's sexual harassment prevention efforts for their university grantees, including methods to regularly monitor and evaluate its sexual harassment prevention policies and communication mechanisms (e.g. Title IX or sex discrimination websites). <b>(Recommendation 16)</b>	Open
OCE	Food Loss and Waste: Building on Existing Federal Efforts Could Help to Achieve National Reduction Goal	GAO-19-391	6/21/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should work with Administrator of EPA and Commissioner of FDA to incorporate leading collaboration practices as they implement their interagency FLW reduction strategic plan, to include (1) agreeing on roles and responsibilities; (2) developing mechanisms to monitor, evaluate, and report on results; (3) clearly defining short- and long-term outcomes; (4) identifying how leadership commitment will be sustained; and (5) ensuring that the relevant stakeholders have been included in the collaborative effort. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
OCE	Date Labels on Packaged Foods: USDA and FDA Could Take Additional Steps to Reduce Consumer Confusion	GAO-19-407	9/9/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should work with the Commissioner of FDA to develop a mechanism to facilitate coordination with relevant nonfederal stakeholders, including state, local, and tribal governments, on actions related to date labels as part of their efforts to reduce food loss and waste. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
OCFO	USDA Administrative Services: Streamlining Efforts Ongoing, but Actions Needed to Monitor Progress, Identify Benefits, and Share Lessons Learned	GAO-16-168	3/15/2016	To improve USDA's efforts to identify and track the benefits of the Blueprint, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Chief Financial Officer to develop a cost-effective method, using existing data systems, to collect and track USDA's spending on administrative services to identify baseline spending and target areas for future cost savings. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open

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OCIO	Department of Agriculture: Analysis of Selected Data Centers Did Not Follow Federal Guidance and Leading Practices	GAO-19-146R	12/19/2018	When amending its analysis of the selected data centers, the Secretary of Agriculture should report on an analysis of the information security controls for each data center, in order to evaluate the data center's information security capabilities. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
OCIO	Data Center Optimization: Additional Agency Actions Needed to Meet OMB Goals	GAO-19-241	4/11/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should take action to meet the data center optimization metric targets established by OMB under DCOI. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
OCIO	Cybersecurity: Agencies Need to Fully Establish Risk Management Programs and Address Challenges	GAO-19-384	7/25/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should develop a cybersecurity risk management strategy that includes the key elements identified in this report. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
OCIO	Cybersecurity: Agencies Need to Fully Establish Risk Management Programs and Address Challenges	GAO-19-384	7/25/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should update the department's policies to require (1) the use of risk assessments to inform security control tailoring and (2) the use of risk assessments to inform plan of actions and milestones (POA&M) prioritization. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
OCIO	Cloud Computing: Agencies Have Increased Usage and Realized Benefits, but Cost and Savings Data Need to Be Better Tracked	GAO-19-58	4/4/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the CIO of Agriculture establishes a consistent and repeatable mechanism to track savings and cost avoidances from the migration and deployment of cloud services. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open

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OCIO	Organizational Transformation: Enterprise Architecture Value Needs to Be Measured and Reported	GAO-12-791	9/26/2012	To enhance federal agencies' ability to realize enterprise architecture benefits, the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, the Air Force, the Army, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, the Interior, Labor, the Navy, State, Transportation, the Treasury, and Veterans Affairs; the Attorney General; the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Small Business Administration; the Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Social Security Administration; and the Directors of the National Science Foundation and the Office of Personnel Management should periodically measure and report enterprise architecture outcomes and benefits to top agency officials (i.e., executives with authority to commit resources or make changes to the program) and to OMB. <b>(Recommendation 26)</b>	Open
OCIO	Computer Matching Act: OMB and Selected Agencies Need to Ensure Consistent Implementation	GAO-14-44	1/13/2014	To improve the implementation of the act, the Secretary of Agriculture should develop and implement policies and procedures for cost-benefit analyses related to computer matching agreements to include key elements such as personnel and computer costs, as well as avoidance of future improper payments and recovery of improper payments and debts. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology Reform: Billions of Dollars in Savings Have Been Realized, but Agencies Need to Complete Reinvestment Plans	GAO-15-617	9/15/2015	To improve the department's IT savings reinvestment plans, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the CIO to ensure that the department's integrated data collection submission to OMB includes, for all reported initiatives, complete plans to reinvest any resulting cost savings and avoidances from OMB-directed IT reform-related efforts. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open

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OCIO	Data Center Consolidation: Agencies Making Progress, but Planned Savings Goals Need to Be Established [Reissued on March 4, 2016]	GAO-16-323	3/3/2016	The Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, the Treasury, and Veterans Affairs; the Attorney General of the United States; the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and U.S. Agency for International Development; the Director of the Office of Personnel Management; the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration should take action to improve progress in the data center optimization areas that we reported as not meeting OMB's established targets, including addressing any identified challenges. <b>(Recommendation 12)</b>	CLOSED/NOT IMPLEMENTED
OCIO	Information Technology: Federal Agencies Need to Address Aging Legacy Systems	GAO-16-468	5/25/2016	To address obsolete IT investments in need of modernization or replacement, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, State, the Treasury, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs; the Attorney General; and the Commissioner of Social Security should direct their respective agency CIOs to identify and plan to modernize or replace legacy systems as needed and consistent with OMB's draft guidance, including time frames, activities to be performed, and functions to be replaced or enhanced. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
OCIO	Telecommunications: Agencies Need to Apply Transition Planning Practices to Reduce Potential Delays and Added Costs	GAO-17-464	9/21/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the Department's Chief Information Officer completes efforts to identify future telecommunications needs and areas for optimization, identifies the costs and benefits of new technology, and aligns USDA's	Open

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				approach with its long-term plans. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	
OCIO	Telecommunications: Agencies Need to Apply Transition Planning Practices to Reduce Potential Delays and Added Costs	GAO-17-464	9/21/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the Department's Chief Information Officer identifies transition-related roles and responsibilities related to the management of assets, human capital, and information security, and legal expertise; develops a transition communications plan; and uses configuration and change-management processes in USDA's transition. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
OCIO	Telecommunications: Agencies Need to Apply Transition Planning Practices to Reduce Potential Delays and Added Costs	GAO-17-464	9/21/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the Department's Chief Information Officer documents the costs and benefits of transition investments, identifies staff resources needed for the remainder of the transition, and analyzes training needs for staff assisting with the transition. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
OCIO	Telecommunications: Agencies Need to Apply Transition Planning Practices to Reduce Potential Delays and Added Costs	GAO-17-464	9/21/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the Department's Chief Information Officer demonstrates that the Department's transition goals and measures align with its mission, identifies transition risks related to critical systems and continuity of operations, and identifies mission-critical priorities in USDA's transition timeline. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology Reform: Agencies Need to Improve Certification of Incremental Development	GAO-18-148	11/7/2017	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the CIO of USDA establishes an agency-wide policy and process for the CIO's certification of major IT investments' adequate use of incremental development, in accordance with OMB's guidance on the implementation of FITARA, and confirm that it includes: a description of the CIO's role in the certification process; a description of how CIO	Open

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				certification will be documented; and a definition of incremental development and time frames for delivering functionality, consistent with OMB guidance. <b>(Recommendation 9)</b>	
OCIO	Critical Infrastructure Protection: Additional Actions Are Essential for Assessing Cybersecurity Framework Adoption	GAO-18-211	2/15/2018	The Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, should take steps to consult with respective sector partner(s), such as the sector coordinating council (SCC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and NIST, as appropriate, to develop methods for determining the level and type of framework adoption by entities across their respective sector. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
OCIO	Paperwork Reduction Act: Agencies Could Better Leverage Review Processes and Public Outreach to Improve Burden Estimates	GAO-18-381	7/11/2018	The Secretary of Agriculture should review the policies, procedures, and related control activities to ensure that the agency's Paperwork Reduction Act review process is operating effectively. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
OCIO	Federal Chief Information Officers: Critical Actions Needed to Address Shortcomings and Challenges in Implementing Responsibilities	GAO-18-93	8/2/2018	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the department's IT management policies address the role of the CIO for key responsibilities in the six areas we identified. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
OCIO	Department of Agriculture: Analysis of Selected Data Centers Did Not Follow Federal Guidance and Leading Practices	GAO-19-146R	12/19/2018	The Secretary of Agriculture should amend its analysis of selected data centers to address key elements of a cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis as defined by OMB Circular A-94 and relevant agency guidance. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open



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OCIO	Department of Agriculture: Analysis of Selected Data Centers Did Not Follow Federal Guidance and Leading Practices	GAO-19-146R	12/19/2018	When amending its analysis of the selected data centers, the Secretary of Agriculture should report on the assessment of each facility's protective measures, as outlined by the Interagency Security Committee guidance. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
OCIO	Department of Agriculture: Analysis of Selected Data Centers Did Not Follow Federal Guidance and Leading Practices	GAO-19-146R	12/19/2018	When amending its analysis of the selected data centers, the Secretary of Agriculture should report on each data center's demonstrated history of restoring continuity of operation functions in the event of a service disruption. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
OCIO	Cybersecurity: Agencies Need to Fully Establish Risk Management Programs and Address Challenges	GAO-19-384	7/25/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should establish and document a process for coordination between cybersecurity risk management and enterprise risk management functions. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology: Agencies Need to Fully Implement Key Workforce Planning Activities	GAO-20-129	10/30/2019	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the agency fully implements each of the eight key IT workforce planning activities it did not fully implement. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
OCIO	Data Center Optimization: Agencies Report Progress, but Oversight and Cybersecurity Risks Need to Be Addressed	GAO-20-279	3/5/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should take action to achieve its data center-related cost savings target established under DCOI by OMB. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology: Selected Federal Agencies Need to Take Additional Actions to Reduce Contract Duplication	GAO-20-567	9/30/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the agency fully implements the category management activity to reduce unaligned IT spending, by performing an analysis of alternatives to justify the agency's unaligned IT contracts. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open

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OCIO	Information Technology: Selected Federal Agencies Need to Take Additional Actions to Reduce Contract Duplication	GAO-20-567	9/30/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the agency fully implements the category management activity to develop and implement vendor management strategies, by implementing the strategies it had developed. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology: Selected Federal Agencies Need to Take Additional Actions to Reduce Contract Duplication	GAO-20-567	9/30/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the agency fully implements the category management activity to share prices paid, terms, and conditions for purchased IT goods and services. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology: Selected Federal Agencies Need to Take Additional Actions to Reduce Contract Duplication	GAO-20-567	9/30/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the agency finishes implementing its process to analyze IT contract data. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
OCIO	Information Technology: Selected Federal Agencies Need to Take Additional Actions to Reduce Contract Duplication	GAO-20-567	9/30/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the agency develops and implements strategies to address duplication identified through the use of spend analyses. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
OCIO	Data Governance: Agencies Made Progress in Establishing Governance, but Need to Address Key Milestones	GAO-21-152	12/16/2020	The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture should direct the Chief Data Officer to perform an assessment of current staff data literacy and data skills, conduct a gap analysis between the current staff's skills and the skills the agency requires, and establish a baseline performance plan to close the identified data skills and literacy gaps. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
OHSEC	Critical Infrastructure Protection: Sector- Specific Agencies Need	GAO-16-79	11/19/2015	To better monitor and provide a basis for improving the effectiveness of cybersecurity risk mitigation activities, informed by the sectors' updated plans and in collaboration with sector stakeholders, the	Open

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	to Better Measure Cybersecurity Progress			Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services (as co-SSAs) should direct responsible officials to develop performance metrics to provide data and determine how to overcome challenges to monitoring the food and agriculture sector's cybersecurity progress. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	
<b>OHSEC</b>	Federal Facility Security: Selected Agencies Should Improve Methods for Assessing and Monitoring Risk	GAO-18-72	10/26/2017	To improve agencies' physical security programs' alignment with the ISC, Risk Management Process for Federal Facilities and Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government for information and monitoring, the Secretary of Agriculture should include data collection and analysis requirements for monitoring the performance of agencies' physical security programs, in the department's revised physical-security manual. <b>(Recommendation 7)</b>	Open
<b>OHSEC</b>	Agencies Have Taken Actions, but Need Complaint Procedures, Overall Plans, and Better Collaboration	GAO-20-299	2/25/2020	The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, should take steps to consult with respective sector partner(s), such as the SCC, DHS, and NIST, as appropriate, to collect and report sector-wide improvements from use of the framework across its critical infrastructure sector using existing initiatives. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
<b>RBCS</b>	Entrepreneurial Assistance: Opportunities Exist to Improve Programs' Collaboration, Data-Tracking, and Performance Management	GAO-12-819	8/23/2012	The Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration should consistently collect information that would enable them to track the specific type of assistance programs provide and the entrepreneurs they serve and use this information to help administer their programs. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	CLOSED/NOT IMPLEMENTED

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RD	Native American Housing: Additional Actions Needed to Better Support Tribal Efforts	GAO-14-255	3/27/2014	To increase consistency and reduce time and predevelopment cost for NAHASDA grant recipients, an interagency effort similar to that of the federal infrastructure task force but specific to tribal housing should be initiated with participants from the Indian Health Service, HUD, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop and implement a coordinated environmental review process for all agencies overseeing tribal housing development. In addition, the agencies should determine if it would be appropriate to designate a lead agency in this effort. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
RD	Rural Housing Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of the Single Family Mortgage Guarantee Program	GAO-16-193	3/31/2016	To improve compliance with OMB Circular A-129 standards and strengthen management and oversight of the guarantee program, and to enhance screening of loan guarantee applicants, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Undersecretary for Rural Development to complete steps to obtain access to Treasury's Do Not Pay portal and establish policies and procedures to deny loan guarantees to applicants who are subject to administrative offsets for delinquent child support payments. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
RD	Rural Housing Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of the Single Family Mortgage Guarantee Program	GAO-16-193	3/31/2016	To improve compliance with OMB Circular A-129 standards and strengthen management and oversight of the guarantee program, and to strengthen oversight of lenders and servicers, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Undersecretary for Rural Development to develop and publish in the Federal Register qualification requirements for the principal officers of lenders and servicers seeking initial or continued approval to participate in the guarantee program. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open

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RD	Rural Housing Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of the Single Family Mortgage Guarantee Program	GAO-16-193	3/31/2016	To improve compliance with OMB Circular A-129 standards and strengthen management and oversight of the guarantee program, and to strengthen oversight of lenders and servicers, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Undersecretary for Rural Development to develop and publish in the Federal Register capital and financial requirements for guarantee program lenders that are not regulated by a federal financial institution regulatory agency. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
RD	Rural Housing Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of the Single Family Mortgage Guarantee Program	GAO-16-193	3/31/2016	To improve compliance with OMB Circular A-129 standards and strengthen management and oversight of the guarantee program, and to strengthen risk assessment and reporting, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Undersecretary for Rural Development to improve performance measures comparing RHS and the Federal Housing Administration loan performance, potentially by making comparisons on a cohort basis and limiting comparisons to loans made in similar geographic areas. <b>(Recommendation 8)</b>	Open
RD	Rural Housing Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of the Single Family Mortgage Guarantee Program	GAO-16-193	3/31/2016	To improve compliance with OMB Circular A-129 standards and strengthen management and oversight of the guarantee program, and to strengthen risk assessment and reporting, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Undersecretary for Rural Development to develop risk thresholds for the guarantee program, potentially in the form of maximum portfolio- or loan-level loss tolerances. <b>(Recommendation 9)</b>	Open

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RD	Rural Housing Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen Management of the Single Family Mortgage Guarantee Program	GAO-16-193	3/31/2016	To improve compliance with OMB Circular A-129 standards and strengthen management and oversight of the guarantee program, and to more effectively fulfill the requirements for conducting program reviews described in OMB Circular A-129, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Undersecretary for Rural Development to develop procedures for selecting RD credit programs for review based on risk and establish a prioritized schedule for conducting the reviews. <b>(Recommendation 11)</b>	Open
RD	Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Coordination on Tribal Projects	GAO-18-309	5/15/2018	The Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development should implement a scoring factor that awards points for proposed Native American program grant projects that address health risks from a lack of access to safe drinking water and wastewater disposal, as it does with the Colonias grant program. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
RD	Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Coordination on Tribal Projects	GAO-18-309	5/15/2018	The Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, in cooperation with other members of the tribal infrastructure task force, should review the 2011 task force report and identify and implement additional actions to help increase the task force's collaboration at the national level. <b>(Recommendation 9)</b>	Open
RD	Tribal Consultation: Additional Federal Actions Needed for Infrastructure Projects	GAO-19-22	3/20/2019	The Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development should document in the agency's tribal consultation policy how agency officials are to communicate with tribes about how tribal input from consultation was considered in agency decisions on proposed infrastructure projects. <b>(Recommendation 6)</b>	Open

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<b>REE</b>	Bee Health: USDA and EPA Should Take Additional Actions to Address Threats to Bee Populations	GAO-16-220	2/10/2016	To improve the effectiveness of federal efforts to monitor wild, native bee populations, the Secretary of Agriculture, as a co-chair of the White House Pollinator Health Task Force, should coordinate with other Task Force agencies that have monitoring responsibilities to develop a mechanism, such as a federal monitoring plan, that would (1) establish roles and responsibilities of lead and support agencies, (2) establish shared outcomes and goals, and (3) obtain input from relevant stakeholders, such as states. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>RHS</b>	Rural Housing Service: Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Farm Labor Housing Program Management and Oversight	GAO-11-329	3/30/2011	To better ensure that requirements for tenant eligibility are met across the FLH portfolio, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of RHS to require its loan servicers to use the Systematic Alien Verification and Entitlements (SAVE) program administered by the Department of Homeland Security to verify tenant's residency status during supervisory reviews. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
<b>RHS</b>	Rural Housing Service: Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Farm Labor Housing Program Management and Oversight	GAO-11-329	3/30/2011	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of RHS to better utilize available data on demand for the FLH program--such as systematically reviewing local market analyses, further analyzing occupancy data on a statewide, regional, or national level, and retaining and analyzing application information--to help target available funding to areas of greatest need. <b>(Recommendation 7)</b>	Open
<b>RHS</b>	Rural Housing Service: Additional Actions Would Help Ensure Reasonableness of Rental Assistance Estimates	GAO-17-725	9/13/2017	The Administrator of RHS should develop and implement a plan for ongoing monitoring, including testing and evaluation, of the obligation tool using relevant data. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open

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RHS	Rural Housing Service: Additional Actions Would Help Ensure Reasonableness of Rental Assistance Estimates	GAO-17-725	9/13/2017	The Administrator of RHS should develop controls to check the reasonableness of rental assistance agreement amounts calculated by the obligation tool. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
RHS	Rural Housing Service: Additional Actions Would Help Ensure Reasonableness of Rental Assistance Estimates	GAO-17-725	9/13/2017	The Administrator of RHS should develop controls to ensure that RHS uses the inflation rates from the President's economic assumptions in developing budget estimates. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
RHS	Rural Housing Service: Additional Actions Would Help Ensure Reasonableness of Rental Assistance Estimates	GAO-17-725	9/13/2017	The Administrator of RHS should provide guidance to Rural Development state offices that specifies that prior to obligating funds, staff are to review information related to a property's mortgage servicing status. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
RHS	Rural Housing Service: Better Data Controls, Planning, and Additional Options Could Help Preserve Affordable Rental Units	GAO-18-285	5/17/2018	The RHS Administrator should establish additional controls to check the accuracy of all loan information entered into RHS information technology systems, to help ensure complete, accurate, and reliable data for estimating rural rental housing property exit dates. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
RHS	Rural Housing Service: Better Data Controls, Planning, and Additional Options Could Help Preserve Affordable Rental Units	GAO-18-285	5/17/2018	The RHS Administrator should establish a process to help ensure regular and frequent updates for the preservation tool and its underlying data. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open
RHS	Rural Housing Service: Better Data Controls, Planning, and Additional Options Could Help Preserve Affordable Rental Units	GAO-18-285	5/17/2018	The RHS Administrator should establish performance goals and measures for its rural rental housing preservation and rehabilitation efforts and report out these outcomes. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open



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<b>RHS</b>	Rural Housing Service: Better Data Controls, Planning, and Additional Options Could Help Preserve Affordable Rental Units	GAO-18-285	5/17/2018	The RHS Administrator should monitor the results of rural rental housing preservation efforts and assess the degree to which those efforts yielded intended outcomes. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
<b>RHS</b>	Rural Housing Service: Better Data Controls, Planning, and Additional Options Could Help Preserve Affordable Rental Units	GAO-18-285	5/17/2018	The RHS Administrator should identify, analyze, and respond to risks to achieving its preservation goals, including resource and staffing limitations. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open
<b>RMA</b>	Crop Insurance: In Areas with Higher Crop Production Risks, Costs Are Greater, and Premiums May Not Cover Expected Losses	GAO-15-215	2/9/2015	To better inform Congress in the future about crop insurance program costs, reduce present costs, and ensure greater actuarial soundness, the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency should monitor and report on crop insurance costs in areas that have higher crop production risks. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>RMA</b>	Crop Insurance: In Areas with Higher Crop Production Risks, Costs Are Greater, and Premiums May Not Cover Expected Losses	GAO-15-215	2/9/2015	To better inform Congress in the future about crop insurance program costs, reduce present costs, and ensure greater actuarial soundness, the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency should, as appropriate, increase its adjustments of premium rates in areas with higher crop production risks by as much as the full 20 percent annually that is allowed by law. <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>	Open

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RMA	Crop Insurance: Opportunities Exist to Improve Program Delivery and Reduce Costs	GAO-17-501	7/26/2017	To reduce year-to-year fluctuations in the administrative and operating expense subsidies that companies receive at the crop, state, and county levels, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency to consider adjusting the administrative and operating expense subsidy calculation method in a way that reduces the effects of changes in premiums caused by changes in crop prices or other factors when it renegotiates the standard reinsurance agreement. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
RUS	Rural Broadband Deployment: Improved Consistency with Leading Practices Could Enhance Management of Loan and Grant Programs	GAO-17-301	4/13/2017	To improve RUS's management of the Infrastructure Program, Broadband Program, and Community Connect by more closely following leading practices for broadband loan- and grant-program management, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct RUS to establish and implement procedures to conduct periodic evaluations of completed grant projects to determine the outcomes associated with these projects, and analyze the information gained to assess if any programmatic changes are needed to improve the Community Connect program. <b>(Recommendation 3)</b>	Open
RUS	Rural Broadband Deployment: Improved Consistency with Leading Practices Could Enhance Management of Loan and Grant Programs	GAO-17-301	4/13/2017	To improve RUS's management of the Infrastructure Program, Broadband Program, and Community Connect by more closely following leading practices for broadband loan- and grant-program management, the Secretary of Agriculture should direct RUS to establish a timeline for implementing a centralized internal system for staff to obtain relevant and timely program data for use in managing and monitoring loans and grant awards. <b>(Recommendation 4)</b>	Open
RUS	Rural Broadband Deployment: Improved Consistency with Leading Practices Could	GAO-17-301	4/13/2017	To improve RUS's management of the Infrastructure Program, Broadband Program, and Community Connect by more closely following leading practices for broadband loan- and grant-program management,	Open

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	Enhance Management of Loan and Grant Programs			the Secretary of Agriculture should direct RUS to develop, update, and maintain complete written policies and procedures for RUS's programs as a way to retain and communicate organizational knowledge internally among agency staff. RUS should determine the critical documentation that should be created or updated, including considering documentation such as loan-application review guidance and employee manuals for each of the three programs. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	
<b>RUS</b>	Tribal Broadband: Few Partnerships Exist and the Rural Utilities Service Needs to Identify and Address Any Funding Barriers Tribes Face	GAO-18-682	9/28/2018	The Secretary of Agriculture should direct the Administrator of RUS to undertake an assessment to identify any regulatory barriers that may unduly impede efforts by tribes to obtain RUS federal grant funds for broadband deployment on tribal lands and implement any steps necessary to address the identified barriers. <b>(Recommendation 1)</b>	Open
<b>USDA</b>	Farm Programs: USDA Should Take Additional Steps to Ensure Compliance with Wetland Conservation Provisions	GAO-21-241	4/2/2021	The Secretary of Agriculture should ensure that the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service instructs state and field offices to consistently report any potential violations they observe. <b>(Recommendation 5)</b>	Open