



Annual USDA Scientific Integrity Allegations Summary Report May 2015 – April 2016

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Scientific Integrity Policy (USDA Departmental Regulation 1074-001) was established May 10, 2013. During the third year that the policy was in effect, May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016, seven (7) allegations of scientific integrity-related misconduct/research misconduct were reported across USDA agencies. The status of these allegations, as of April 30, 2016, was as follows:

- One (1) allegation was undergoing an initial assessment by the appropriate USDA Agency Research Integrity Officer.
- One (1) allegation had insufficient credible and specific information to warrant referral for an inquiry. The USDA Agency Research Integrity Officer responsible for handling the allegation requested that additional information be provided; however, as of the end of the reporting period, the requested information had yet to be received.
- An initial assessment of one (1) allegation determined that the research referenced in the allegation was conducted by individuals not employed by USDA. The allegation was referred by the entity that initially received the allegation to the appropriate institution that employed the individuals.
- An initial assessment of one (1) allegation determined that it did not fall within the scope of the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy.
- Three (3) allegations were referred for inquiries. In two cases, the inquiries did not identify evidence of research misconduct or a violation of the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy. In one case, an inquiry into the allegation was still ongoing at the end of the reporting period.