



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Office of the  
Assistant Secretary  
for Administration

1400 Independence  
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Washington, DC  
20250-0103

JUL 13 2006

**TO:** All USDA-Issued Identification Card Holders

**FROM:** Boyd K. Rutherford  
Assistant Secretary  
for Administration

**SUBJECT:** Urgent Washington Area Employee Notification

This memorandum is a follow-up to my June 21, 2006, memorandum notifying you that an unauthorized third party had potentially accessed a USDA computer system. USDA is pleased to report that the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) has determined from their investigation of the incident that the system was accessed but none of the data files containing personal information was downloaded or transferred outside the Department's Computer system.

Based on the investigators' findings, USDA will not further pursue the offer to provide credit monitoring.

We are pleased that our personal data has not left the Department's Computer system. We want to assure you that every effort is being made to protect our computer systems from further intrusions. Departmental Administration has taken steps to enhance security on all servers and workstations. USDA is conducting a thorough review of all Department data systems **to minimize the amount of personal information in each system** and to confirm that appropriate levels of security are in place.

We will continue to provide you with any further information on this situation as it becomes available. We have also requested that the Inspector General produce a full report on the situation, including details uncovered during the investigation, at such time as it is appropriate.

cc: All USDA Employees