

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2026 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023 and 2024, Full-Year Continuing Resolution levels for 2025, and the President’s Budget request for 2026. Amounts for 2025 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2025, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in 2025 and 2026 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

AGENCY-WIDE**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) carries out its mission pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. app. 3, as amended) (IG Act). OIG was established to conduct and supervise audits and investigations relating to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and operations; to provide leadership and coordination and recommend policies for activities designed to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of USDA programs and operations, as well as to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in such programs and operations; and to provide a means to keep the Secretary and Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of such programs and operations and the necessity for and progress of corrective action. See IG Act at Section 2.

OIG carries out these activities through the successful execution of audits, inspections, investigations, and reviews, and through appropriate reporting, all as mandated by the IG Act, which are funded through the OIG appropriation. OIG operates independently from the other agencies within the Department. OIG’s statutorily mandated duties and responsibilities are:

- To provide policy direction for and to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations relating to programs and operations of USDA;
- To review existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to programs and operations of USDA and to make recommendations concerning the impact of such legislation or regulations on the economy and efficiency in the administration of USDA’s programs and operations, or the prevention and detection of fraud and abuse in such programs and operations;
- To recommend policies for and to conduct, supervise, or coordinate other activities carried out or financed by USDA for the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in the administration of, or preventing and detecting fraud and abuse in, its programs and operations;
- To recommend policies for, and to conduct, supervise, or coordinate relationships between USDA and other Federal agencies, State and local government agencies, and nongovernmental entities with respect to all matters relating to the promotion of the economy and efficiency in the administration of, or the prevention and detection of fraud and abuse in, programs and operations administered or financed by USDA, or the identification and prosecution of participants in such fraud and abuse; and

- To keep the Secretary and the Congress fully and currently informed, by means of required reports or otherwise, concerning fraud and other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies relating to the administration of programs and operations administered or financed by USDA, to recommend corrective action concerning such problems, abuses, and deficiencies, and to report on the progress made in implementing corrective action.

See IG Act at Section 4(a).

During 2024, OIG issued 186 investigative reports, 41 audit and inspection reports and 1 final action verification report. Audit and investigative results totaled \$1.9 billion or \$17.50 for every dollar in its 2024 appropriation. OIG investigations resulted in 257 indictments and 145 convictions.

OIG is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with regional offices in the following cities: Beltsville, Maryland; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Temple, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; and Oakland, California. The OIG also has 33 additional offices strategically aligned to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective manner of carrying out OIG's mission located throughout the country. As of September 30, 2024, OIG had 425 permanent full-time employees.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs

Table OIG-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	\$111,561	405	\$111,561	405	\$111,561	405	\$100,000	375
Supplemental Appropriations...	4,716	20	4,716	20	12,216	15	4,716	41
Offsetting Collections.....	607	-	131	-	294	-	-	-
Total Discretionary								
Appropriations.....	111,561	405	111,561	405	111,561	405	100,000	375
Total Supplemental								
Appropriations.....	4,716	20	4,716	20	12,216	15	4,716	41
Total Adjusted Appropriation....	116,884	425	116,408	425	124,071	420	104,716	416
Balance Available, SOY	13,805	-	15,680	-	15,270	-	23,584	-
Recoveries, Other	287	-	1,385	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	130,976	425	133,473	425	139,341	420	128,300	416
Lapsing Balances.....	-2,013	-	-1,346	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY	-15,680	-	-15,270	-	-23,584	-	-15,463	-
Total Obligations	113,283	425	116,857	425	115,757	420	112,837	416
Total Obligations, OIG	113,283	425	116,857	425	115,757	420	112,837	416
Other USDA:								
Risk Management	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food and Nutrition Service.....	286	-	286	-	286	-	286	-
Forest Service.....	400	-	440	-	440	-	440	-
Rural Development.....	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
OCFO/WCF Audits.....	275	-	305	-	325	-	325	-
OCFO NEF	3,500	-	2,864	-	1,500	-	3,000	-
Total, Other USDA	5,961	-	4,895	-	3,551	-	5,051	-
Total, Agriculture Available.....	136,937	425	138,368	425	142,892	420	133,351	416
Other Federal Funds:								
CIGIE	667	-	538	-	233	-	-	-
OMB Detail	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other Federal	691	-	538	-	233	-	-	-
Total Available, OIG.....	137,628	425	138,906	425	143,125	420	133,351	416

* This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies. Tables updated to include offsetting collections for petition for remissions for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Pub. L. No. 104-37, 109 Stat. 303 (1995)

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs**Table OIG-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs**

Item	2023 Actual			2024 Actual			2025 Estimated			2026 Estimated		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
ES	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
SES	5	4	9	5	4	9	5	4	9	5	4	9
GS-15	9	24	33	9	24	33	9	24	33	9	24	33
GS-14	15	79	94	15	79	94	15	79	94	15	79	94
GS-13	18	204	222	18	204	222	18	199	217	18	195	213
GS-12	4	35	39	4	35	39	4	35	39	4	35	39
GS-11	2	9	11	2	9	11	2	9	11	2	9	11
GS-9	3	7	10	3	7	10	3	7	10	3	7	10
GS-8	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3
GS-7	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
GS-5	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
Total Permanent ..	58	367	425	58	367	425	58	362	420	58	358	416
Total Perm. FTE												
EOY	58	367	425	58	367	425	58	362	420	58	358	416
FTE.....	113	312	425	113	312	425	112	308	420	112	304	416

* This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies. Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions. Grade and FTE actuals have been updated to reflect HQ Office at Washington D.C. – prior reporting included National Capital Region employees at Beltsville (field).

VEHICLE FLEET**Motor Vehicle Fleet**

The 2026 President's Budget proposes acquiring 2 additional vehicles for anticipated backfills of retired agents in the Southwest Region. These vehicles, which are assigned to Criminal Investigators, are utilized in the investigation and prevention of criminal activities, such as: fraud in subsidy, price support, benefits, and insurance programs; significant thefts of Government property or funds; bribery; extortion; smuggling; and assaults on employees. In addition, the fleet vehicles are used for investigations involving criminal activity that affects the health and safety of the public, such as meat packers knowingly selling hazardous food products and individuals who tamper with food regulated by USDA. Also, OIG Criminal Investigators are poised to provide emergency law enforcement response to USDA declared emergencies, Federally-declared disasters in support of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) support, and suspected incidents of terrorism affecting USDA regulated in industries as well as USDA programs, operations, personnel, and installations, in coordination with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

Replacement Criteria

OIG replaces leased vehicles based on GSA protocols and reported mileage and age of the vehicle. For sedans, the criterion for replacement is 5 years and/or 60,000 miles. For SUVs, the replacement criteria are 7 years and/or 65,000 miles. OIG replaces vehicles with like vehicles, unless the need for a larger vehicle is justified by agency Management officials. Examples of such instances would be a Use of Force instructor needing a larger vehicle for equipment transportation, or an agent working investigations in a rural area with rough terrain.

Table OIG-3. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating Inventory	66	17	59	3	2	-	-	-	147	\$754,000
2023 End of Year Operating Inventory	53	6	72	-	3	-	-	-	134	837,000
2024 Actual Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2024 Actual Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2024 End of Year Operating Inventory	53	6	72	-	3	-	-	-	134	732,000
2025 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	16	-	1	-	-	-	17	
2025 Planned Disposals	11	-	7	-	2	-	-	-	20	
2025 End of Year Operating Inventory	42	6	81	-	2	-	-	-	131	1,000,000
2026 Planned Acquisitions	8	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	27	
2026 Planned Disposals	8	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	25	
2026 End of Year Operating Inventory	42	6	83	-	2	-	-	-	133	1,000,000

* Number of vehicles by type include vehicles owned by the agency and leased from commercial sources or GSA. Annual Operating Costs exclude acquisition costs and gains from the sale of vehicles as shown in FAST. 2023 Annual Operating Costs were updated for the final reconciliation amount.

Table OIG-4. Statement of Proposed Acquisition of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2023	53	-	-	-	-	53
2024	53	-	-	-	-	53
2025	53	11	-	-	-	42
2026	42	8	8	-	8	42

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table OIG-5. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA	\$14	\$37	\$36	\$36
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	-	4	-
Material Management Service	32	34	27	28
Mail and Reproduction Services	136	143	126	127
Integrated Procurement Systems	57	64	66	66
Procurement Operations Services	2	2	2	1
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems	5	64	92	94
Subtotal	246	344	353	352
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	4	6	5	2
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	130	132	125	126
Financial Shared Services	384	390	387	390
Internal Control Support Services	-	13	11	11
Personnel and Document Security	22	26	27	27
Subtotal	540	567	555	556
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	649	562	483	483
Department Administration Information Technology Office	10	21	22	22
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	720	359	343	343
Enterprise Analytical Data Services	16	428	428	428
Enterprise Cyber Security Services	-	84	99	99
Enterprise Network Services	602	955	869	763
Subtotal	1,997	2,409	2,244	2,138
Office of the Executive Secretariat	30	32	20	13
Total, Working Capital Fund	2,813	3,352	3,172	3,059
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Agency Partnership Outreach	32	30	32	32
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (Canceled)	9	11	2	0
Employee Experience	15	15	12	12
Medical Services	32	29	20	20
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	10	12	7	7
Office of Customer Experience	14	12	13	13
Physical Security	19	19	25	25
Security Detail	22	22	34	34
Security Operations	30	30	32	32
Talent Group	16	13	14	14
TARGET Center	7	7	7	-
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	206	200	198	196
E-Gov:				
E-Rulemaking	-	2	3	2
Human Resources Line of Business	1	1	1	1
Integrated Acquisition Environment	1	1	1	1
Total, E-Gov	2	4	5	4
Agency Total	3,021	3,556	3,375	3,259

This table is based on a preliminary 2026 estimate, which will be adjusted at a later date to reflect the Department's updated posture and footprint. In alignment with the current Administration's priorities, the 2025 amounts reflect expenses incurred prior to January 20, 2025.

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ACCOUNT 1: OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

Office of Inspector General

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), \$100,000,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 408(a)(9)), and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98).

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table OIG-6. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)**

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2025	\$111,561,000
Change in Appropriation	-11,561,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	100,000,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS**Table OIG-7. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:											
Office of Inspector General	\$111,561	405	\$111,561	405	\$111,561	405	\$100,000	375	-\$11,561	-30	(1)
Subtotal	111,561	405	111,561	405	111,561	405	100,000	375	-11,561	-30	
Supplemental Approp:											
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.....	4,716	20	4,716	20	4,716	10	4,716	26	-	+16	
American Relief Act.....	-	-	-	-	7,500	5	-	15	-7,500	+10	
Subtotal	4,716	20	4,716	20	12,216	15	4,716	41	-7,500	+26	
Offsetting Collections:											
DOJ Petition Fund 5410s	142	-	-	-	130	-	-	-	-130	-	
DOT Petition Fund 5411s.....	465	-	131	-	164	-	-	-	-164	-	
Subtotal	607	-	131	-	294	-	-	-	-294	-	
Total Adjusted Approp	116,884	425	116,408	425	124,071	420	104,716	416	-19,355	-4	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out, Rescissions	-4,716	-	-4,716	-	-12,216	-	-4,716	-	+7,500	-	
Total Appropriation.....	112,168	425	111,692	425	111,855	420	100,000	416	-11,855	-4	
Transfers In:											
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.....	4,716	-	4,716	-	4,716	-	4,716	-	-	-	
American Relief Act.....	-	-	-	-	7,500	-	-	-	-7,500	-	
Total Transfers In	4,716	-	4,716	-	12,216	-	4,716	-	-7,500	-	
Recoveries, Other	287	-	1,385	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY.....	13,805	-	15,680	-	15,270	-	23,584	-	+8,314	-	
Total Available	130,976	425	133,473	425	139,341	420	128,300	416	-11,041	-4	
Lapsing Balances	-2,013	-	-1,346	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-15,680	-	-15,270	-	-23,584	-	-15,463	-	+8,121	-	
Total Obligations	113,283	425	116,857	425	115,757	420	112,837	416	-2,920	-4	

* Project statements and MAX do not match due to reimbursables.

Table OIG-8. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Office of Inspector General	\$109,548	405	\$110,215	405	\$111,561	405	\$100,000	375	-\$11,561	-30
Subtotal Disc Obligations	109,548	405	110,215	405	111,561	405	100,000	375	-11,561	-30
Supplemental Obligations:										
Infrastructure Investment and										
Jobs Act.....	3,833	20	6,321	20	3,000	10	5,604	26	+2,604	+16
American Relief Act.....	-	-	-	-	500	5	3,233	15	+2,733	+10
Contract Audit Recovery.....	-	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Supp Obligations	3,833	20	6,389	20	3,500	15	8,837	41	+5,337	+26
Offsetting Collections:										
DOJ Petition Fund 5410s	-1,387	-	253	-	696	-	2,500	-	+1,804	-
DOT Petition Fund 5411s.....	1,289	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	+1,500	-
Subtotal Offsetting Collections...	-98	-	253	-	696	-	4,000	-	+3,304	-
Total Obligations	113,283	425	116,857	425	115,757	420	112,837	416	-2,920	-4
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	2,013	-	1,346	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Infrastructure Investment and										
Jobs Act.....	8,779	-	7,105	-	8,821	-	7,933	-	-888	-
American Relief Act.....	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	3,767	-	-3,233	-
DOJ Petition Fund 5410s	3,534	-	4,427	-	3,861	-	1,361	-	-2,500	-
DOT Petition Fund 5411s.....	3,367	-	3,738	-	3,902	-	2,402	-	-1,500	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	15,680	-	15,270	-	23,584	-	15,463	-	-8,121	-
Total Available	130,976	425	133,473	425	139,341	420	128,300	416	-11,041	-4
Less:										
Total Transfers In	-4,716	-	-4,716	-	-12,216	-	-4,716	-	+7,500	-
Recoveries, Other	-287	-	-1,385	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-13,805	-	-15,680	-	-15,270	-	-23,584	-	-8,314	-
Total Appropriation	112,168	425	111,692	425	111,855	420	100,000	416	-11,855	-4

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES**Office of Inspector General**

The Office of Inspector General conducts audits and investigations under the Inspector General Act of 1978 to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within USDA and to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in programs and operations. Continuation of these programs is critical to ensure that financial information is represented fairly, accurately, and in accordance with government accounting standards. A fully funded OIG is vitally important to ensure results are achieved through audits and investigations.

OIG's Office of Investigations have substantial impact – \$248 million in recoveries returned to the Treasury during 2024 alone, along with 145 convictions, 383 arrests, and 82 administrative sanctions. OIG recovers far more than appropriated, and additional funds provided to OIG yield return on investment for the taxpayer. Additionally, the Office of Investigations is taking on high-value task force collaborations, including cross-agency work to combat transnational fraud rings within the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Office of Audit issued 42 audit, inspection and other oversight reports in 2024, with 55 percent tied to mandatory work and special funding areas and remaining engagements tied to Congressional or Departmental requests and discretionary reviews of critical programs including IT and cybersecurity, crop insurance, SNAP and other feeding programs, and food safety. This includes cyber security penetration testing that identifies vulnerabilities in USDA systems and improper payments work required by the Payment Integrity Information Act, which increased to over \$10B billion at USDA with error rates ranging from 1.79 percent for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (FNS WIC) to 40.41 percent for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). OIG works to identify and recommend remedies for root causes in programs including SNAP and crop insurance within its discretionary portfolio.

The requested Budget of \$100,000,000 will support the essential function of the OIG, which is conducting oversight of USDA's operations and extensive portfolio of programs. At this proposed funding level, OIG would continue to accomplish statutorily mandated work and selected critical risk areas. Given OIG's track record of productivity and a historical return on investment of \$17.50 for every dollar invested, the USDA OIG will continue to enhance its capacity to conduct effective oversight.

The numbers and letters of the following listing relate to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

(1) A reduction of \$11,561,000 and 4 FTEs (\$111,561,000 and 420 FTEs available in 2025).

In pursuit of streamlining workforce efforts, facilities, and other government efficiencies, the OIG has reduced staff levels to 416. Through the Deferred Resignation Program, Voluntary Early Retirement Authority, canceled recruitments, and regular attrition, OIG has taken steps to ensure the most efficient and effective operation possible, including but not limited to streamlining operations to commit as many positions as possible to line-level, direct, mission-focused work. This includes reduction of support staff across offices, consolidation of functions, more efficient supervisor to employee ratios, and the potential backfilling of special agents.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs**Table OIG-9 Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Office of Inspector General (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

State/Territory/Country	2023		2024 Actuals	FTEs	2025		2026	
	Actuals	FTEs			Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama.....	\$1,066	4	\$1,100	4	\$1,102	4	\$1,085	4
Alaska.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
Arizona.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Arkansas.....	800	3	825	3	827	3	814	3
California.....	9,596	36	9,898	36	9,922	36	9,765	36
Colorado.....	1,866	7	1,925	7	1,929	7	1,899	7
Delaware.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
District of Columbia.....	2,932	11	3,025	11	3,032	11	2,984	11
Florida.....	6,131	23	6,324	23	6,339	23	6,239	23
Georgia.....	8,530	32	8,799	32	8,820	32	8,680	32
Idaho.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Illinois.....	5,064	19	5,224	19	5,237	19	5,154	19
Indiana.....	1,333	5	1,375	5	1,378	5	1,356	5
Iowa.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Kansas.....	7,730	29	7,974	29	7,993	29	7,866	29
Kentucky.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Louisiana.....	800	3	825	3	827	3	814	3
Maine.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
Maryland.....	15,993	60	16,497	60	15,157	55	13,833	51
Massachusetts.....	1,066	4	1,100	4	1,102	4	1,085	4
Michigan.....	1,866	7	1,925	7	1,929	7	1,899	7
Minnesota.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Mississippi.....	1,066	4	1,100	4	1,102	4	1,085	4
Missouri.....	9,329	35	9,624	35	9,646	35	9,493	35
Montana.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
Nebraska.....	800	3	825	3	827	3	814	3
Nevada.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
New Jersey.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
New York.....	2,665	10	2,750	10	2,756	10	2,712	10
North Carolina.....	3,732	14	3,849	14	3,859	14	3,797	14
North Dakota.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
Ohio.....	1,599	6	1,650	6	1,654	6	1,627	6
Oklahoma.....	800	3	825	3	827	3	814	3
Oregon.....	1,333	5	1,375	5	1,378	5	1,356	5
Pennsylvania.....	2,932	11	3,025	11	3,032	11	2,984	11
Puerto Rico.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
South Carolina.....	800	3	825	3	827	3	814	3
Tennessee.....	800	3	825	3	827	3	814	3
Texas.....	7,996	30	8,249	30	8,268	30	8,137	30
Utah.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Virginia.....	8,263	31	8,524	31	8,544	31	8,409	31
Washington.....	533	2	550	2	551	2	542	2
Wisconsin.....	267	1	275	1	276	1	271	1
Obligations.....	113,283	425	116,857	425	115,757	420	112,837	416
Lapsing Balances.....	2,013	-	1,346	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	15,680	-	15,270	-	23,584	-	15,463	-
Total, Available.....	130,976	425	133,473	425	139,341	420	128,300	416

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**Table OIG-10. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)**

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$7,497	\$7,976	\$7,902	\$8,042
	Personnel Compensation, Field	50,174	53,379	52,889	53,421
11	Total personnel compensation	57,671	61,355	60,791	61,463
12	Personal benefits.....	25,101	26,796	26,448	27,974
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	7	9	10	10
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	82,779	88,161	87,249	89,447
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	2,864	1,584	1,517	1,400
22.0	Transportation of things.....	114	76	103	107
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	4,544	4,616	4,617	4,301
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	-	1	1	1
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	2,659	1,459	1,461	1,139
24.0	Printing and reproduction	317	54	55	56
25	Other contractual services	-	-	-	-
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	1,617	2,069	2,049	1,550
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	12,372	11,594	11,119	9,120
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	1,748	2,882	3,317	2,518
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	22	146	148	149
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	1	-	-	-
25.6	Medical care.....	-	1	1	1
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	2,192	3,426	3,428	2,429
26.0	Supplies and materials	621	317	319	319
31.0	Equipment.....	1,331	371	373	300
32.0	Land and structures	1	-	-	-
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	100	100	-	-
43.0	Interest and Dividends	1	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects.....	30,504	28,696	28,508	23,390
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	113,283	116,857	115,757	112,837
DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3).....					
		\$866	\$948	\$878	\$878
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$190,223	\$194,480	\$198,370	\$202,337
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$125,242	\$130,338	\$132,945	\$135,604
	Average Grade, GS Position	13.5	13.6	13.7	13.8

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

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STATUS OF PROGRAMS

OIG's audit, investigative, and data analytics work is summarized under OIG's focus areas:

- Safety and Security
- Integrity of Benefits
- Efficient Delivery of USDA Programs, Operations, and Initiatives
- Oversight of USDA Activities Associated with Supplemental Funding

SAFETY AND SECURITY - Strengthen USDA's Ability to Protect Public Health and Safety and to Secure Agricultural and Department Resources

OIG's independent audits, investigations, inspections, data analytics, and other reviews focus on issues such as the ongoing challenges of agricultural inspection activities, the safety of the food supply, homeland security, animal welfare, and information technology security and management. In addition, OIG responds to specific threats made against USDA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Audit Work:

Agricultural Research Service Midwest Area Facility Condition and Security, Agricultural Research Service Northeast Area Facility's Condition and Security, and USDA's Implementation of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility

OIG identified several key findings and issued multiple recommendations related to USDA security of facilities. OIG performed an evaluation of two Agricultural Research Service (ARS) facilities' physical condition and security. We recommended ten corrective actions to ARS and reached management decision on all of them. We also performed an audit of U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas. The audit was performed to evaluate the implementation of physical security controls at NBAF. We recommended nine corrective actions to ARS and reached management decision on all of them.

USDA's Security Controls Over Industrial Control Systems

OIG performed an inspection of multiple USDA agencies to assess the security posture of USDA's Industrial Control Systems (ICS) to determine whether proper controls were implemented to minimize the risk of compromise. We reviewed NIST guidance for ICS and USDA policies and procedures and interviewed agency officials to identify relevant criteria and determine how agencies implemented security controls and configurations, tracked and authorized changes to their ICS devices, and identified and mitigated security vulnerabilities for ICS devices. We also reviewed vulnerability scans at one agency to determine whether vulnerabilities had been addressed in accordance with USDA policy. We made seven recommendations to multiple agencies and reached management decisions on all of them.¹

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services' Role in Administering the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program

OIG found that although Wildlife Services used a consistent approach for its depredation reports that attributed livestock deaths to Mexican gray wolves, investigators did not always use consistent support for those reports. Specifically, investigators did not always include photographs to document evidence found at depredation scenes, such as tracks, scat, or hair. Although the interagency standard operating procedure requires photographing the carcass and surrounding area when conducting an investigation, it did not explicitly state that photographs needed to be attached to the depredation reports. Such formal photograph requirements would ensure consistency in the agency's

¹ The seven recommendations included two each to APHIS and FS, one recommendation each to OCIO and ARS, and one recommendation jointly to ARS and REE.

depredation reports. OIG made three recommendations to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and reached management decision on each of them.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Investigative Work:

OIG investigates allegations of Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations. In one case, a corporation that previously operated a Virginia dog-breeding facility was sentenced to 5 years of probation and more than \$35 million in payments and fines for violations of AWA and the Clean Water Act, including the largest fine in AWA history. Prior to sentencing, more than 4,000 beagles were rescued from the facility. OIG and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Criminal Investigation Division jointly investigated the case.

A Maryland man was sentenced to 18 months in prison, 6 months of home detention, and a \$20,000 fine, followed by 3 years of supervised release, for his involvement in a multi-State dogfighting conspiracy. At the time the man was charged in this case, he was the Deputy Chief Information Officer for Command, Control, and Communications for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This was a joint investigation with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), a local police department, and a local animal control.

INTEGRITY OF BENEFITS - Strengthen USDA's Ability to Deliver Program Assistance with Integrity and Effectiveness.

Much of OIG's audit and investigative resources are dedicated to ensuring that USDA program funds are reaching those for whom they are intended. Many USDA benefit and entitlement programs provide payments directly to individuals or entities in need of support and receive substantial levels of funding; they are also susceptible to misuse by organized groups and individuals. In addition, USDA provides financial and technical resources to help rural communities develop, grow, and improve their quality of life. Our audits and investigations help ensure that these programs are functioning as designed.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Audit Work:

Prevented Planting Follow-up

RMA did not ensure that the specific acreage in a producer's land was eligible for an insurance payment. To make this determination, the producers' insurance adjusters used a mathematical approach to determine the total acres eligible for a prevented planting claim. During our review, we were unable to use the information in the adjuster's claim files to confirm that producers were eligible for the insurance payments they received. Without documentation that demonstrated which acres were eligible, we determined that prevented planting payments totaling more than \$1.087 billion were not fully supported. OIG made two recommendations to RMA and reached management decision on both.

Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program—Oversight of Grant Recipients' Use of Funds

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) administers the Meat and Poultry Expansion Program (MPPEP) which encourages competition and sustainable growth in the United States meat processing sector while enhancing supply chain resilience. MPPEP provides grants to assist eligible meat and poultry processors expand their capacity. We reviewed RBS' internal controls over the MPPEP grant recipients' use of funds. We found that RBS did not design and implement an effective internal control system over the MPPEP Phase I post-award process to ensure grantees used funds as required. Specifically, RBS did not design control activities to ensure compliance with annual onsite reviews and approval of pre-award expenses. This occurred because RBS prioritized awarding MPPEP grants quickly over establishing documented controls. As a result, there is reduced assurance that MPPEP grantees are properly expending funds in accordance with Federal and program requirements, resulting in more than \$208 million in questioned costs. OIG made two recommendations to RBS and reached management decision on both of them.

FNS SNAP: Disbursement of SNAP Benefits Using the EBT System

Our report provided information about the processes that FNS uses to disburse SNAP benefits using the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system, as well as the related oversight activities. The EBT system is an electronic payment system that distributes SNAP benefits to eligible households. As part of this overview, the report provided the history of SNAP; the roles and responsibilities of Federal and State agency officials, retailers, and Third-Party Processors; as well as the electronic systems used to support the EBT infrastructure. We also outlined the OIG's SNAP oversight activities from 2015 through 2024, which included 26 engagements with 80 reportable findings and 157 recommendations. In addition, we explored OIG's investigative work, which resulted in over 1,800 indictments and 2,000 retailer fraud convictions. As noted in OIG's 2024 Top Management Challenges report, USDA loses millions of dollars each year to fraud and other crimes associated with SNAP, making the need for FNS to strengthen its oversight of SNAP to remain vigilant against fraud, waste, and abuse. This was the first in a series of reports that lays the foundation for OIG's oversight work of SNAP and the EBT system. OIG made no recommendations in this report.

Food and Nutrition Service's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Fraud Risk Assessment

We evaluated FNS' fraud risk assessment process for SNAP EBT and the design and implementation of its strategy to mitigate fraud risks. Guidance and legislation have increasingly emphasized the need for program managers to take a strategic approach to managing fraud risks. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) published A Framework for Managing Fraud Risk in Federal Programs (Fraud Risk Management Framework) in 2015, which provides a comprehensive set of leading practices to help agencies and Federal program managers strategically manage their fraud risks at the program or agency level. We found that FNS has not comprehensively assessed SNAP fraud risks in adherence with the GAO Fraud Risk Management Framework, nor has it documented a prioritized approach to managing fraud risks. As a result, FNS is not meeting the objective of fraud risk management which is to ensure program integrity by continuously and strategically mitigating both the likelihood and effects of fraud, while also facilitating the program's mission. We made four recommendations to FNS and reached management decision on each of them.

Ongoing Work in FNS SNAP

OIG is conducting a series of engagements evaluating SNAP, including oversight of information technology (IT) hardware to effectively prevent SNAP benefit theft and evaluation of the use of SNAP administrative funds for participants' benefits. The objectives of these engagements are respectively, to determine whether (1) FNS has taken actions to secure IT hardware to effectively prevent SNAP benefit theft through card skimming, card and terminal cloning, and other similar fraudulent methods; and (2) selected states used FNS SNAP administrative funds to provide benefits to participants.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Investigative Work:

In one investigation a Pennsylvania woman was sentenced to 18 months in prison, over \$1.8 million in restitution, and forfeiture of proceeds of her offenses for defrauding the U.S. Government. The woman used the small corner grocery store she owned to redeem SNAP benefits, even though she knew the store had not been approved to participate in SNAP as a merchant. She gained access to the program by misappropriating merchant identification numbers that were assigned to stores that participated in the program legitimately. This was a joint investigation with the FBI and HSI.

In another investigation a Mississippi man was sentenced to 10 years in prison and was ordered to pay more than \$69 million in restitution for committing fraud in connection with the operation of a grain elevator in the Mississippi Delta. This was a joint investigation with the FBI, Mississippi Attorney General's Office, and IRS-CI.

A 40-year-old man, formerly of Florida, and his ex-wife, also of Florida, were sentenced for their roles in a series of financial schemes defrauding USDA and other entities for a total of \$198 million. The man was sentenced to 27 years in prison, which must run consecutive to a 25-year term he is already

serving from the Northern District of Illinois. His ex-wife was sentenced to 51 months in prison. Both are required to pay restitution to USDA and four other financial institutions. This was a joint investigation with the FBI.

An Oklahoma woman was sentenced to 6 months of home confinement, 5 years of probation, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$148,916 after pleading guilty to one count of theft of Government money. OIG initiated an investigation after receiving a referral from the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, which alleged that a nursing home embezzled USDA's Rural Development (RD) Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program (CFDL) program funds. The investigation revealed that the business manager of the facility misused her position to pay herself and other employees amounts more than their regular salaries through payroll advances and extra checks that were later concealed from payroll reports. The business manager funded the payroll expenditure by transferring CFDL funds from the facility's USDA account. The investigation also revealed the misuse of the facility's credit card in the form of regular cash withdrawals and personal expenditure also funded by CFDL monies.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Office of Analytics and Innovation Work:

[Broadband: A Data Stroll Version 2](#)

OIG developed a second version of *Broadband: A Data Stroll* in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) OIG and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) OIG. This product uses publicly available data from USDA, DOC, and the FCC and data visualizations to enhance the transparency of broadband programs and associated federal funding. This version introduces FCC awards and expands the tool to map all broadband awards for all three agencies, not just those provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Additionally, this version provides automated and timely data refreshes and centralizes the awards onto one map, no matter the funding agency. The public can see nationwide broadband coverage and the awards in place to improve it.

EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF USDA PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES - Strengthen USDA's Ability to Achieve Results-Oriented Performance

OIG's audits, investigations, and other reviews focus on areas such as improved financial management and accountability, research, real property management, and employee integrity. As part of this goal, we work with USDA to make program operations more efficient and improve customer service.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Audit Work:

USDA's Agency and Consolidated Financial Statements

USDA received a qualified opinion from OIG's audit of the Department's consolidated financial statements. At the end of 2023, USDA changed the obligation recognition point for the SNAP. Consistent with this change, USDA recorded obligations of more than \$9 billion and more than \$11 billion, for the years ended September 30, 2024, and 2023, respectively, for benefits in the first month of the subsequent fiscal year. However, management was unable to provide adequate evidential matters to support that these obligations were proper charges against the 2024 and 2023 appropriations. As a result, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to the consolidated financial statements were necessary. OIG made one recommendation to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and reached management decision on it. The four stand-alone reports for CCC, NRCS, RD, and FCIC/RMA contain an unmodified opinion on the agencies' financial statements for 2024 and 2023, as well as an assessment of the agencies' internal controls over financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Investigative Work:

A former D.C. Homeland Security Commissioner and former employee with USDA was sentenced to 15 months in prison for submitting fraudulent applications seeking money from the Paycheck Protection Program, which netted her \$844,000. In addition to the 15-month prison sentence, the woman was ordered to serve 2 years of supervised release. This was a joint investigation with SBA OIG, and the FBI.

Additionally, OIG continues to leverage our available Sensitive Investigations Office and Technical Crimes Division resources in conducting or supporting investigations of senior management misconduct, whistleblower reprisal complaints, and other statutorily mandated requirements/investigations.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Office of Analytics and Innovation Work:

[Potential Anomalies Related to Locality Pay](#)

OIG was asked to respond to questions regarding potential anomalies related to locality pay, including telework situations. We found that up to \$282,394 could be saved per year by adjusting locality pay to the remote work location for these employees.

OVERSIGHT OF USDA ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING - Ensure transparency and accountability through risk-based oversight of high-priority initiatives

Our work in this focus area provides critical oversight of various USDA programs and operations that received supplemental funding from Congress including COVID-19, IIJA, and the American Relief Act.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Audit Work:

IIJA—Hazardous Fuels Management

Forest Service (FS) manages more than 193 million acres of public land, and more than 66.9 million acres are at high or very high-risk for wildfires that would be difficult to contain. Land managers can increase forest resilience and minimize wildfire impacts through fuels treatment projects. FS conducts hazardous fuels treatments or fuels and forest health treatments to reduce dangerous fuel levels and restore forest health and resilience. In support of wildfire risk reduction, FS received \$205.6 million from IIJA for 2022 and 2023 to conduct hazardous fuels management activities. We determined that FS did not separately track 2022 and 2023 IIJA, Division J Hazardous Fuels Management funds. As a result, FS could not accurately report how much it spent for 2022 and 2023 hazardous fuels management, resulting in \$205.6 million in questioned costs. Additionally, we found that FS did not fully document its rationale for prioritizing and selecting projects. As such, FS' decision-making process is not transparent, resulting in reduced assurance that the most critical projects were selected. OIG made two recommendations to FS and reached management decision on both.

IIJA - Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program Capping Report on Implementation by Regions 3 and 6

In November 2021, IIJA provided Forest Service with approximately \$250 million to establish the IIJA Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program (LRT). OIG summarized the issues identified during the audits of Region 3 and Region 6's implementation of LRT² and provided recommendations to the Washington Office. While we recognize that Regions 3 and 6 had limited time to implement LRT, based on our prior work, we were unable to validate the scoring and eligibility of these projects. We also found that both regions we reviewed did not consistently solicit and consider public input regionally in the ranking of projects for funding under the program. As a result, Forest Service has

² Audit Report 08601-0005-31, *IIJA-Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program-Region 3*, December 16, 2024; and Audit Report 08601-0006-31, *IIJA-Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program-Region 6*, December 17, 2024.

reduced assurance that the two regions selected the most meritorious and eligible projects for the more than \$19.4 million in LRT funding—this may have prevented the projects from fully serving the best interests of affected stakeholders. Additionally, we found that 1 of the regions also approved and allocated LRT funds to 11 ineligible tasks within 2 approved projects. As a result, although Forest Service did not expend LRT funding on the ineligible tasks, the agency held more than \$630,000 in LRT funds for ineligible tasks within approved projects, thus making these funds unavailable for other eligible LRT projects or tasks. Within this capping report, OIG made three recommendations to FS and achieved management decisions on each of them. Within the two audits of the individual regions which this report summarized, OIG made five additional recommendations to FS with than \$19.4 million in questioned costs. We reached management decisions on each of those recommendations.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress - Investigative Work:

An Iowa farmer who stole more than \$5 million in livestock and COVID-19 pandemic benefits was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison. The man pleaded guilty to one count of theft of livestock, one count of wire fraud, and one count of false bankruptcy declaration. He also was ordered to pay more than \$5.7 million in restitution to victims of cattle theft, pandemic benefits fraud, and force and foreign labor fraud. This was a joint investigation with the Small Business Administration (SBA) OIG, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation OIG, DOL OIG, and HSI.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress-Office of Analytics and Innovation Work:

[USDA OIG Forest Service Firefighter Survey \(IIJA\)](#)

OIG conducted a survey of FS Firefighters to better understand the perceived impact of IIJA on firefighters, including authorized pay increases, occupational series changes, and programs relevant to firefighters.