United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Inspector General

Washington, D.C. 20250

DATE: April 19, 2012

AUDIT
NUMBER: 50501-0001-12

SUBJECT: USDA's Configuration, Management, and Security over Domain Name System
             Servers

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) coordinates information technology within the Department. Like other organizations, USDA and its agencies rely on Domain Name System (DNS) servers to route internet traffic through the telecommunications network. DNS is a data communication mechanism that translates numerical addresses into easy-to-understand website names, and is susceptible to vulnerabilities. We conducted an audit to evaluate the Department's management and security controls over DNS. We found that USDA's security over DNS did not meet all required standards. OCIO generally agreed with our recommendations and is taking action to correct the issues.

This report is not being publicly released due to the sensitive security information it contains.