

ETHICS PROGRAM REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters

Follow-up to OGE Report Number: 18-11 and 19-07F

Report No.: 20-02F

Date: February 20, 2020



As a result of its review of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters' (USDA) ethics program, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued five recommendations in its November 2017 review report. OGE conducted a follow-up review in December 2018 to assess whether USDA had taken sufficient action to resolve the deficiencies underlying these recommendations and closed four recommendations. OGE conducted a second follow-up review to assess whether USDA has taken sufficient action to resolve the last remaining recommendation. The results of the second follow-up review are summarized below.

	Recommendation	Agency Action and OGE Finding	Status
1	Ensure that new entrant confidential financial disclosure reports filed by all SGE advisory committee members are certified timely.	<p>OGE reviewed a sample of 32 reports filed in 2018 during its follow-up review and found that only 6 (19%) were filed timely. All the reports were certified timely. OGE left this recommendation open to assess USDA's efforts to ensure that reports are filed, reviewed, and certified timely.</p> <p>During the OGE second follow-up review, OGE reviewed a sample of 20 reports filed in 2019 and found that all 20 were filed, reviewed, and certified timely.</p>	Closed

Based on the results of OGE's follow-up review, the recommendation is closed.