



OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

July 8, 2022

Wendy Laguarda  
Inspector General  
Farm Credit Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
1501 Farm Credit Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Ms. Laguarda,

Attached is the external peer review report from our peer review of the Farm Credit Administration Office of Inspector General inspection and evaluation organization, conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. We assessed the extent to which the Farm Credit Administration's Office of Inspector General complied with CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* standards, December 2020 (Blue Book). On July 6, 2022, we provided you with a draft of the report for your review and comment. We included your July 7, 2022, response as Enclosure 2 in the attached external peer review report.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies extended to us during the review. If you have any questions, please contact me or Kelli Brown-Barnes, Acting Deputy Inspector General for Audits, Evaluations, and Special Projects.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Sharek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Rebecca L. Sharek  
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures

cc: Sonya Cerne, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations,  
Office of Inspector General, Farm Credit Administration  
  
Katherine Reilly, Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General,  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
  
Kelli Brown-Barnes, Acting Deputy Inspector General for Audits, Evaluations, and  
Special Projects, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Securities and Exchange  
Commission



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## External Peer Review Report

July 8, 2022

To: Wendy R. Laguarda, Inspector General  
Farm Credit Administration

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the CIGIE *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* (December 2021). The peer review was conducted from April 25 through July 8, 2022.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Office of Inspector General Review Team (Review Team) assessed the extent to which the Farm Credit Administration Office of Inspector General (FCA OIG) complied with the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, December 2020 (Blue Book). This assessment included a review of FCA OIG's internal policies and procedures (FCA OIG Directive 3200, *Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Manual*, July 16, 2021) implementing the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between September 2019 and March 2022 to determine whether the reports complied with the Blue Book standards and FCA OIG's internal policies and procedures. See Enclosure 1 for an overview of the Review Team's scope and methodology for conducting the peer review.

### Overall Conclusion

The Review Team determined that FCA OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. The two reports reviewed generally complied with the Blue Book standards and FCA OIG's policies and procedures.

We did not prepare a Letter of Comment because we did not identify any instances of noncompliance with Blue Book standards and, therefore, did not make recommendations to FCA OIG. We included your response to the draft of our external peer review report as Enclosure 2.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Sharek".

Rebecca L. Sharek  
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures (As stated)

## Enclosure 1. Scope and Methodology

The peer review period was September 2019 to March 2022. FCA OIG published six inspection and evaluation reports during the period. The Review Team selected the following two reports for review:

1. *Farm Credit Administration's Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 for Fiscal Year 2021*, Report No. I-22-02 (March 23, 2022); and
2. *The Farm Credit Administration's Property Management Program*, Report No. I-21-03 (December 7, 2021).

The Review Team selected these two reports because the inspections were issued under the revised December 2020 Blue Book standards and FCA OIG's policies and procedures, revised in July 2021. The Review Team concluded that these two reports would be representative of FCA OIG's current inspection and evaluation activities.

The Review Team conducted all aspects of the peer review remotely because of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's operating posture related to the Coronavirus Disease of 2019. The Review Team interviewed FCA OIG officials, observed supporting workpapers and project files through video conferences, and obtained relevant supporting documents via e-mail. The Review Team had no constraints on its ability to exercise professional judgment and no limitations on or impairments to independence.

## Enclosure 2. FCA OIG Comments to Draft External Peer Review Report



July 7, 2022

Rebecca L. Sharek  
Acting Inspector General  
U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20549-2977

Dear Acting Inspector General Sharek:

I have reviewed your draft report on the external peer review report for the inspection and evaluation organization of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) Office of Inspector General (OIG). We are pleased that the peer review team found that FCA OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation and that the two reports reviewed generally complied with the standards and FCA OIG's policies and procedures. We are also pleased that the peer review did not identify any instances of noncompliance and, as such, did not make recommendations to the FCA OIG.

We appreciate the work that went into the review and the professionalism and effort given to our office. We have no further comments on the draft report, and we thank you and your office for the thorough review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy R. Laguarda".

Wendy R. Laguarda  
Inspector General