

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Audit Report

**OIG 2017 Evaluation of the
Farm Credit Administration's
Compliance with the
Federal Information Security
Modernization Act**

A-17-05

Issued October 27, 2017



FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A-17-05

OBJECTIVE:

The objectives of this evaluation were to determine the effectiveness of the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA or Agency) information security programs and practices and to provide the OIG with the ability to report the results to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

BACKGROUND:

FCA is an independent Federal agency responsible for regulating, examining, and supervising the Farm Credit System and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation. The mission of the agency is to ensure a safe, sound, and dependable source of credit and related services for agriculture and rural America.

The FCA Board approved the formulation of the Office of Information Technology (OIT) in May 2015. The OIT is responsible for all aspects of technology, including IT infrastructure and applications development, maintenance and support, data collection, and IT security services.

OIG 2017 EVALUATION OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY MODERNIZATION ACT

The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) requires Inspectors General or an independent external auditor, as determined by the Inspector General of the agency, to perform an annual evaluation of their agency's security program and practices. For fiscal year 2017, FCA Office of Inspector General (OIG) contracted with Brown & Company CPAs and Management Consultants, PLLC (Brown & Company) to conduct the independent evaluation of FCA's compliance with the provisions of FISMA.

FISMA requires agencies to develop, document, and implement an agency-wide information security program to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the Agency, including those provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source.

Brown & Company concluded that FCA's information security program is generally compliant with the FISMA legislation and applicable OMB guidance. FCA continued to make positive strides in addressing information security weaknesses. Brown & Company found that FCA's information security program was effective and provided reasonable assurance of adequate security.

However, Brown & Company identified for improvement three control weaknesses related to FCA security practices. The weaknesses were in the areas of identity management, configuration management, and incident response. OIT agreed to take corrective action on four recommendations related to these three weaknesses.

Brown & Company's report contains sensitive information about FCA and potential vulnerabilities that could be used against the Agency; therefore, the OIG is not releasing the full report publicly.

**FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**



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