



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

February 21, 2020

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C.
20250

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Tony Corbo
Food & Water Watch
1616 P St. NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036

RE: FOIA-2020-00121
NSIS Requests

Dear Mr. Corbo:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) dated December 30, 2019, in which you requested a copy of all requests from hog slaughter establishments expressing an interest in converting to the New Swine Inspection System, from December 23, 2019 to December 30, 2019. FSIS received your request in our Office on December 30, 2019.

The FSIS FOIA staff works with subject matter experts across the Agency to locate responsive documents. For this request, we conducted a record search in the Office of Field Operations. FSIS' search began on December 30, 2019. Our search includes responsive records in FSIS' control on that date.

We have located one page that is responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have determined that this record is exempt from disclosure under (b)(4) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. Accordingly, this request is denied.

The responsive records are exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Exemption 4 protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential.

You may appeal this determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should include copies of your original request and this response, as well as a discussion of the reasons supporting your appeal. The envelope should be plainly marked to indicate that it contains a FOIA appeal. If you decide to appeal this determination, please send your appeal to:

Carmen Rottenberg
Administrator
Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 1170, South Building
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Please be advised that your FOIA request, including your identity and any information made available, is releasable to the public under any subsequent FOIA requests. However, FSIS does not release your personal privacy information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, or Social Security Numbers, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

If you have any questions about the way this request was handled, please contact Ethan Pickrell at 202 260-8912 or via email at Ethan.Pickrell@usda.gov. If you have general questions about the FSIS FOIA process or USDA regulations, please contact me at (202) 690-2760 or via email at Arianne.Perkins@usda.gov.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

Arianne M. Perkins
Director, Freedom of Information Act Staff
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education
Food Safety and Inspection Service

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