

From: Hutchison, Stasia
To: mmoss@nytimes.com
Subject: FOIA No. 2014-REE-03327-F
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014 6:13:00 PM
Attachments: [20140529103737693.pdf](#)
[20140529103211529.pdf](#)
[20140529104024862.pdf](#)
[20140529174452616.pdf](#)
[20140529170011448.pdf](#)
[20140529165917555.pdf](#)

Michael Moss

NY Times

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 29, 2014, and modified on April 30, 2014, concerning the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC). Your request was perfected on April 30 and assigned FOIA No. 2014-REE-03327-F.

In processing your request, this office contacted the U.S. MARC, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Clay Center, NE, to search for documents responsive to your request. The following ARS offices searched for responsive records maintained in our files: Director's Office; Business Office; Reproduction Research Unit; Nutrition and Environmental Management Research Unit; Meat Safety and Quality Research Unit; and Genetic, Breeding, and Animal Health Research Unit. The following addresses each item of your request:

-- For the periods from Jan. 1, 2001 through Jan. 1, 2004, and again from Jan. 1, 2011 through the date of this request, any and all animal necropsy/mortality reports prepared at MARC. These typically are one-page forms, filled out in hand-writing by the attending veterinarian or other scientist documenting the cause of the animal's death and its condition, and are being warehoused by MARC.

The animal necropsy/mortality reports are prepared by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL). These reports are not agency records as defined by the FOIA. However, we did locate some necropsy reports in our files, which were completed for specific animals in ARS research projects. Copies of these report are attached. The names of the UNL employees have been redacted and are exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 protects information about individuals in personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

-- Any and all reports, correspondence, audits and other documentation received by MARC from Mary Temple Grandin, an animal consultant. Clarification provided by you on May 6 states: It's my understanding that the animal husbandry consultant Mary Temple Grandin visited MARC in the late 1990s or early 2000s, and advised MARC on some cattle husbandry matters. So the records I'm seeking, if they exist, would be for that time period.

We searched for records received by ARS from Mary Temple Grandin dated between 1995 and 2005 (late 1990s or early 2000s) and did not locate any responsive documents.

-- For the period from Jan. 1, 1994 through the date of this request, any and all records relating to the receipt of outside monies (non-USDA) used in connection with MARC research, including but not limited to grants, noncompetitive funding, and reimbursable funding. For each case of such outside funding, the records should include the identity of the entity providing the funding, the dollar amount, date, and nature of the research being funded. Per our discussion on April 30, you would accept a spreadsheet containing the following information: the entity providing the funding, the dollar amount, date, and nature of the research being funded.

Attached is a spreadsheet that contains the start date, the granting agency, the project title, and the amount of funding for non-USDA funding used in connection with MARC research.

-- For the period from Jan. 1, 1994 through the date of this request, any correspondence received by MARC from members of the agricultural community, expressing appreciation for MARC's work.

Attached are two letters maintained in ARS files expressing appreciation for MARC's work. The cell number has been redacted from one letter is exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 protects information about individuals in personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Nine pages are being released to you in full, and 67 pages have been redacted. You have the right to appeal our determination by writing to the Administrator, ARS, USDA, Room 302-A, Jamie L.

Whitten Federal Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. The appeal must be received by that office within 45 days of the date of this letter. The phrase "FOIA Appeal" should be placed in capital letters on the front of the envelope containing the appeal.

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact this office at 301-504-1655 or stasia.hutchison@ars.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Stasia Hutchison

Stasia Hutchison

FOIA/PA Office, REE, USDA

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www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=1398

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