

From: Hutchison, Stasia
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 12:50 PM
To: Moss, Michael
Subject: FOIA No. 2014-REE-03842-F
Attachments: Disposal_code_descriptions.txt; Disposal_reasons.txt; Health_new.txt; Health_old.txt; Historical.txt; Line_codes.txt; Populations.txt; Project_populations.txt; Disposal_code_descriptions.txt; Disposal_reasons.txt; Historical.txt; Line_codes.txt; Population_codes.txt; Populations.txt; Cris_project.txt; Cris_projects_codes.txt; Disposal_code_descriptions.txt; Disposal_reasons.txt; Health.txt; Historical.txt; Line_codes.txt; Population.txt; Population_codes.txt; 20140717121101543.pdf

Michael Moss

NY Times

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 30, 2014, concerning the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), U.S. Department of Agriculture. Your request was perfected on June 4 and assigned FOIA No. 2014-REE-03842-F.

Per our discussion on June 4, your request has been modified to include:

-- The data base of records prepared by or for the center, and management by USDA employee Jim Wray, among other USDA employees, on the animals used for research at the facility, to include the following fields: the animal ID number, species and breed, the code or codes for the project or projects the animal was associated with, the date born, health treatment records, date of death, cause of death and manner of disposal including but not limited to euthanasia. Any computer format will do for these records, but please no PDFs. Also, please include any code books or look-up tables needed to interpret the data.

- Any and all email, letters, correspondence, reports, filings and other records received by ARS or generated by MARC relating to the treatment or welfare of animals used in its experiments. You are specifically interested in any concerns raised by ARS and UNL employees, including Robert Elder, Roger Ellis, James M. Fox, Kelly Heath, James Keen, Jeffrey Ondrak, Gary Rupp, and Mike Wallace; however, would also like documents generated by other individuals, if available in our files.

Date of Records: 1985 to the present; however, understand that the database/records may not go back to 1985.

Attached are 23 data files with the information you requested from the USMARC database on the animals used for research at the facility. The animals included in the data files are nonharvested animals born in 1985 through 2014 that died or were euthanized at USMARC. In addition, enclosed is a pdf file that contains documents received or generated by USMARC relating to the treatment or welfare of animals used in USMARC experiments. In compiling documents the following individuals searched both electronic and paper files for responsive documents: Center Director, Administrative Officer, each Research Leader, Herd Health Veterinarian, and ARS Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Members. Cellphone numbers and personal information have been redacted from the documents 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. 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.

Attached is a total of 23 data files and 29 pages of which 24 pages are being released to you in full and 5 pages have been redacted.

We are continuing to search through additional filing systems for documents dated prior to 1990 and hope to provide any additional documents to you by July 31.

If you have any questions about 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
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
GWCC, Room 1-2248, Mail Stop 5128
Beltsville, MD 20705-5128
stasia.hutchison@ars.usda.gov
301-504-1655 Telephone; 301-504-1647 Fax
www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=1398

Get more information: www.ars.usda.gov

