



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

October 9, 2014

Mr. Michael Moss  
NY Times  
199 Park Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Dear Mr. Moss:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 22, 2014, for information concerning the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC). Your request was received on July 23, perfected on July 25, and assigned FOIA No. 2014-REE-04577-F.

The following addresses each item of your request:

- Current payroll, or other records, showing the annual salaries of the five highest paid U.S.D.A. employees at the Center, as well as the current annual salary of employee Shuna Jones;

The annual salaries of the five highest paid USDA employees at USMARC are:

- 1 -- \$181,500
- 2 -- \$149,333
- 3 -- \$145,504
- 4 -- \$141,675
- 5 -- \$141,675

The annual salary of Shuna Jones is \$99,170

- For the period January 1, 2003, through the date of this request, all records relating to the Center's Animal Care and Use Committee, including committee meeting minutes and facility inspection reports;

Enclosed are the Animal Care and Use Committee meeting minutes and facility inspection reports that are maintained in our files. The names of employees have been redacted from the inspection reports 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.

- The video recordings made in connection with Experiment No. 5438-31000-074-01, “Assessment of incidence of back defect and pork tenderness in 2005 born BX boars;”

Enclosed is a copy of the DVD Titled, “5438-31000-074-01.” Personally identifiable information has been redacted and is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Exemption 6, as stated above.

- Any records revealing the total receipts, dollars received, for the Center’s sale of twinning cattle semen on April 16, 2014;

The total amount of dollars received for the Center’s sale of twining cattle semen on April 16, 2014, was \$9,380.00.

- For the period January 1, 2003, through the date of this request, any and all MARC policies or protocols relating to the administration of euthanasia, including any changes made during this period to existing policy or protocol;

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) published guidelines in 2013 pertaining to euthanasia. The previous AVMA guidelines were published in 2009. The guidelines are available at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).

- For the period January 1, 2010, through the date of this request, any records, including but not limited to audits received by, or in the possession of, MARC, relating to the University of Nebraska’s ownership of the animals used in MARC’s experimentation, as well any changes MARC is preparing to undertake concerning the ownership of animals used at MARC;

Enclosed are two agreements between the USMARC and the University of Nebraska addressing the ownership of animals.

- Any records relating to this reporter’s inquiries into the activities of MARC, including but not limited to notifications to staff, requests for security services, and incident reports relating to alleged events on Mother’s Day, May 11, 2014;

We did not locate any documents responsive to this item of your request for “any records relating to this reporter’s inquiries into the activities of MARC” and pertain to “alleged events on Mother’s Day, May 11, 2014.”

You have a right to appeal our determination by writing to the Administrator, ARS, USDA, Room 302-A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 14<sup>th</sup> & 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 call me at 301-504-1655.

Sincerely,

STASIA A.M. HUTCHISON  
Freedom of Information Act  
and Privacy Act Officer

Enclosures  
(1,728 Sheets)