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4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

April 13, 2020

Austin R. Evers
Ricardo J. Salvador
Christine H. Monahan
c/o American Oversight and Union of Concerned Scientists
Christine.Monahan@americanoversight.org

Re: FOIA Request 2020-APHIS-03095-F

Dear Ms. Monahan, Mr. Evers and Dr. Salvador :

This reply is APHIS' final response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that American Oversight and the Union of Concerned Scientists submitted to the USDA Departmental FOIA Office on March 4, 2020, seeking the following:

"All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) that were sent by any of the USDA officials listed below to an email address ending in .com / .org / .net / .edu / .mail (including any message on which such email addresses were copied (CC) or blind copied (BCC)), and that contain either: (a) the terms "Bohman" or "ERS Administrator" anywhere in the subject line or body of the email; or (b) the term "ERS" within the same paragraph as "Administrator," "DMB," "DMEB," "MEB," or "MB" within the body of the email."

Your request listed twelve (12) USDA employees for whom you are seeking email communications that they sent, which contains any of the above-listed search terms. You stated that you are seeking email communications sent between the dates June 1, 2018 and August 30, 2018, inclusive,

The USDA Departmental FOIA Office forwarded one item of your request, i.e., a search for email correspondence sent by Kevin Shea, the APHIS Administrator, to the APHIS FOIA Office. APHIS assigned the tracking number 2020-APHIS-03095-F to this portion of your request.

On March 24, 2020, APHIS employees conducted an electronic search of agency computer systems for any and all emails that would satisfy this portion of the request, i.e., email correspondence sent by Mr. Kevin Shea, using the parameters you provided, and containing any of the search terms you listed (i.e., "Bohman" or "ERS Administrator" in the subject line, or the terms "ERS", "Administrator", "DMB", "DMEB", "MEB", or "MB", in the manner you specified.) No records responsive to your request were identified in this records search.

No fees have been assessed for the information provided.

You may contact Joseph Tangredi, the analyst who processed your request, at (301) 851-4061 as well as Ms. Bethany Jones, our FOIA Public Liaison, at (301) 851-4100 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. 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; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may submit an administrative appeal. During the pandemic, our offices are closed. Instead of physically mailing your appeal, we ask that in the short term you submit your appeals electronically by email to FOIA.MRP.Appeals@usda.gov. Your appeal must be electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this response. Please reference case number 2020-APHIS-03095-F and the phrase "FOIA APPEAL" in the subject line of your email. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, please provide specific reasons why you believe modification of this determination is warranted.

If you have any questions pertaining to this response, please contact Joseph Tangredi at (301) 851-4061.

Sincerely,



For:
Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act
Legislative and Public Affairs