



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

March 19, 2021

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Austin R. Evers, Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

**Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2020-OSEC-03716-F
Second Interim Response**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the **second interim response** to the above-referenced FOIA request received by the Office of Information Affairs (OIA), FOIA Division (formerly the “Departmental FOIA Office” or “DFO”). The request sought:

All email communications (including email messages, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between any of the USDA officials listed below and anyone in the Executive Office of the President (including anyone with an email address ending in eop.gov).

Agency Officials

- a. Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, including anyone communicating on his behalf, such as executive assistants, personal assistants, or schedulers
- b. Stephen Censky, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- c. Anyone serving in the role of Chief of Staff for the Secretary, including Joby Young
- d. Rebeckah Adcock, Senior Adviser
- e. Pam Miller, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service
- f. Shiela Corley, Chief of Staff to the Administrator
- g. Brandon Lipps, Deputy Under Secretary, Food and Nutrition Service, and anyone acting on his behalf such as a chief or deputy chief of staff, scheduler, assistant, or advisor;

Please provide all responsive records from January 30, 2020, through the date of the search.

On April 28, 2020, you modified your request by narrowing the listed custodians to “Secretary Perdue, anyone serving in the role of Chief of Staff to the Secretary, including Joby Young, and Senior Advisor Rebeckah Adcock.”

On May 27, 2020, you clarified that you would like to include all agencies within the Executive Office of the President in your request.

On November 30, 2020, the FOIA Division issued a first interim response in this matter.

Your request continues to be processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Client Experience Center's (CEC) eComply team. The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users. The CEC also implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide. The CEC searched the email accounts associated with the custodians mentioned in your modified request. The CEC search located records responsive to your FOIA request. For this second interim, the FOIA Division reviewed a total of seventy-three (73) pages of emails and the accompanying attachments.

The FOIA Division continues to process your request.

Following a review of the responsive records, the FOIA Division has determined that certain information contained therein should be withheld pursuant to U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) and (b)(6) (FOIA Exemptions 5 and 6). Additionally, twelve (12) pages of records, as well as three (3) spreadsheets, have been withheld in their entirety under FOIA Exemption 5. Below is an explanation of the information that has been withheld.

FOIA Exemption 5 – Deliberative

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.” One of the frequently invoked FOIA Exemption 5 privileges is the deliberative process privilege. To fall within FOIA’s deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter.

In this instance, the FOIA Division is withholding, under the deliberative process privilege, pre-decisional intra- and inter-agency discussions on agency actions relating to proposed language for documents, proposed social media releases, proposed policy responses by government agencies, and proposed meetings and talking points. The FOIA Division is also fully withholding twelve (12) pages of records that consist of drafts for proposals and agency guidance as well as three (3) spreadsheets containing data collected by the USDA for use in policy-making decisions.

These items are pre-decisional in that they are antecedent to any final agency decision. These items are also deliberative in that they reflect the evolving, back-and-forth process between agency employees that is so integral to the Executive Branch decision-making process; more specifically, the development of potential recommendations made by agency advisors for use in making policy decisions.

If these pre-decisional, deliberative communications were released to the public, USDA and other Executive Branch employees would be much more cautious in their discussions with each other, and in candidly discussing and providing all pertinent information and viewpoints in a timely manner to agency decision-makers. This lack of candor would also seriously impair the Department's ability to engage in forthright, internal discussions necessary for efficient and proper agency decision-making.

FOIA Exemption 5 – Attorney-Client

The FOIA Division is also withholding information under the attorney-client privilege. This privilege protects confidential communication between an attorney and his/her client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice. Although this privilege fundamentally applies to facts divulged by a client to his/her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinion given by an attorney to his/her client based upon those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect client supplied information. In this instance, the FOIA Division is withholding information shared internally whereby legal advice is being sought from and provided by the Department's counsel.

These confidential communications are shielded from disclosure in order to encourage open and frank discussions between the Department and its legal advisors. Ensuring the Department receives sound legal advice promotes public policy, and this advice depends on counsel being fully informed. The release of these confidential communications would inhibit the Department's ability to provide pertinent information and would impair the Department's counsel from making well-informed legal decisions.

FOIA Exemption 6

Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Application of the exemption involves balancing the public's interest in disclosure against individuals' privacy interests.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of mobile phone numbers, direct phone numbers, a teleconference access code, and email addresses and telephone numbers belonging to employees of the Executive Office of the President (EOP). This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which individuals have a privacy interest. Releasing mobile phone numbers and direct phone numbers, as well as the contact information of employees belonging to the EOP, could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications, or even harassment. As for the teleconference access code, participants have a privacy interest in ensuring that no uninvited individual is listening in on the call. Because there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, we have determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

Austin R. Evers

FOIA Case No. 2020-OSEC-03716-F

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You have the right to appeal the FOIA Division's determinations. Due to the need to issue more than one determination in order to fully resolve your request, your appeal rights for all determinations in response to this request will be provided to you in our final response letter.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the FOIA Division's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Camille Aponte. Ms. Aponte may be contacted by telephone at (202) 505-0271, or electronically at Camille.Aponte@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/mediation-program/request-assistance> for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Susan Ruppel at (202) 694-5982, or electronically at susan.ruppel@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at www.dm.usda.gov/foia.

The FOIA Division appreciates your patience as we continue processing the remainder of your FOIA request.

Sincerely,

Alexis R. Graves

Alexis R. Graves
Director
Office of Information Affairs

Enclosure: Responsive Records (61 pages)

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Fwd: RE-opening Document
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:12:37 PM
Attachments: [COVIDINDUSTRYGUIDANCE edits.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (2 pages)

Tate:

Members of our leadership at USDA would like to submit for consideration the attached language which might provide more uniform clarity for plants and local authorities to use in decisions around plant reopenings, etc. There are some stage notes, etc., included.

I know you are in contact with Denzel, Olivia, others about this issue. Would like to get yours and others' feedback on such an approach.

-Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#) Deborah Birx
To: [Troye, Olivia EOP/NSC](#); (b) (6)
Cc: [Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Brashears, Mindy - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Update
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:13:32 PM

Hello-

Secretary Perdue asked that I make sure you all had the latest as far as testing needs at priority meat packing facilities.

The Secretary as well as Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears had a very productive conversation with folks at HHS and FEMA last night. As a result of that call and the assistance they have offered, we have been in contact today with the companies who have had challenges at key facilities. The facilities that have expressed testing needs at this time are Tyson facilities in Waterloo, IA; Logansport, IN; and Pasco, WA and the JBS facility in Worthington, MN.

With this feedback, Dr. Brashears and her team have reached out to the Governor's offices in the states of Iowa, Indiana and Washington to set up coordination calls hopefully tomorrow with the local health authorities, HHS and USDA to assist with any additional testing needs they may have at the closed plants in these states. We're also pursuing the same with the state of Minnesota.

We'll make sure to keep you all updated. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Fwd: Question
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:37:33 AM

Should have copied you

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:35:39 AM Kayleigh McEnany
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; Nick Butterfield
 (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Kristan K. Nevins
 (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Question

Checking with you guys if you are ok if we tweet and otherwise communicate that b(5) DPP

[REDACTED]

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

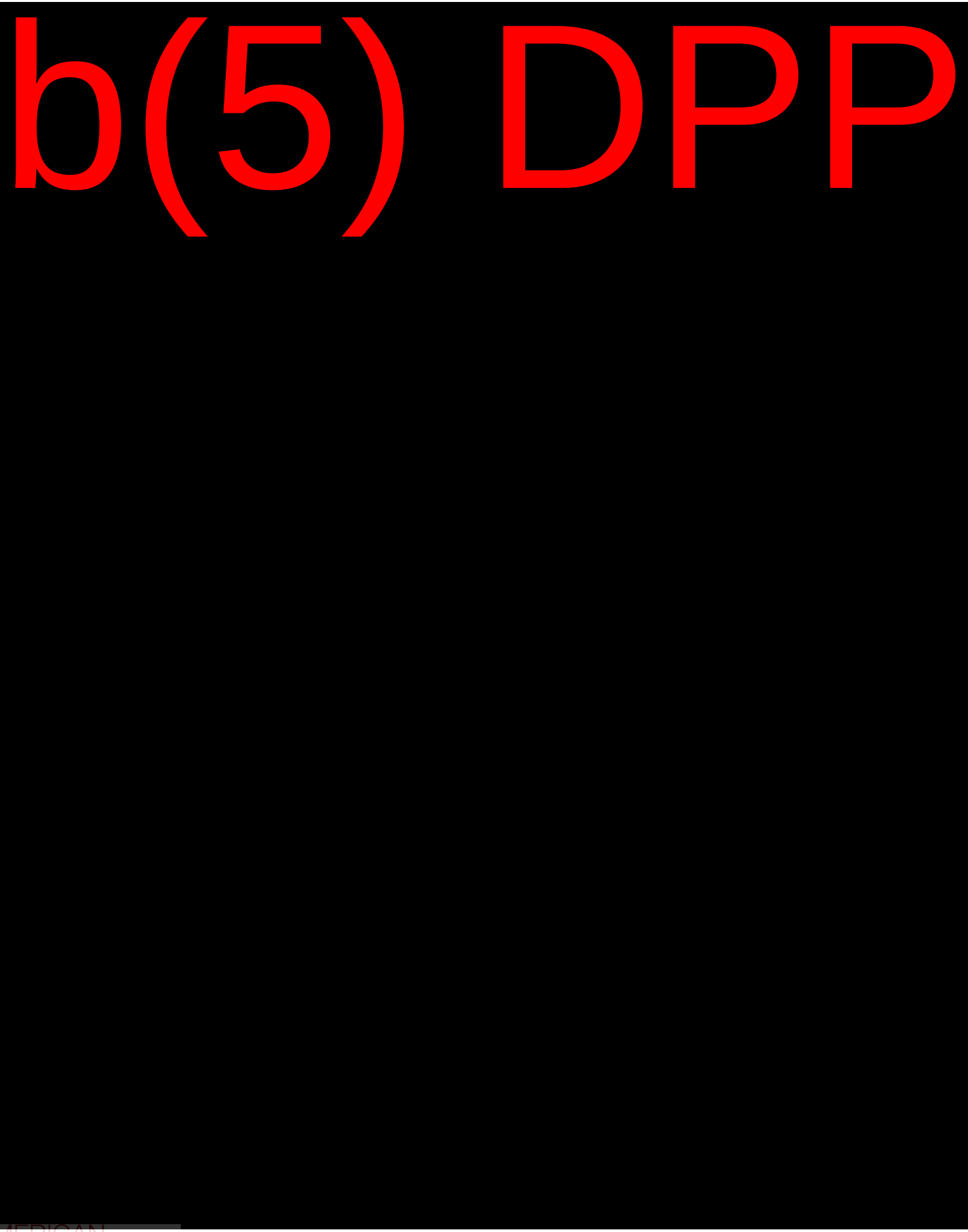
From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Young, Stewart B. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Fwd: Podium talkers
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:02:50 AM

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 18:41
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Podium talkers

b(5) DPP

b(5) DPP



b(5) DPP

- Thank you all very much.

###



Meghan Rodgers

Acting Communications Director

United States Department of Agriculture

Office: (202) 720-5555

Cell: (202) 515-6850

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rader, John N. EOP/NSC](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:10:37 PM
Attachments: [COVID Food Supply Chain 20.04.13 JY.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (2 pages)
[image001.png](#)

Predecisional/deliberative

FYI. SP will speak to the task force today using this document. I don't believe it will be provided beforehand.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:21:55 PM
To: Troye, Olivia EOP/NSC <(b) (6)>
Cc: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Taylor.Crowe@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd:

See attached.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <hailey.ghee@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:20:43 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject:



Hailey Ghee

Special Assistant to the Secretary
 Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office: (202) 205-9982
 Cell: (202) 450-9387

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Nick Butterfield \(b\) \(6\)](#); [Kristan K. Nevins \(b\) \(6\)](#); [Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO](#); [McCormack, Brian](#); [Andrew J. Olmstead](#)
Cc: [Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Fwd: COVID Farmer Mitigation Package Overview 4-13-20 v2 FOR POTUS
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 6:10:31 PM
Attachments: [COVID Farmer Mitigation Package Overview 4-13-20 POTUS FINAL.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (2 pages)

Nick-

See attached policy doc for our policy time request. Please let me know what else you may need.

-Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Fwd: COVID draft Farmer Assistance Overview Document
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:40:44 PM
Attachments: [COVID Farmer Mitigation Package Overview 4-10-20 v4.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (2 pages)

Draft

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP](#); [Troye, Olivia EOP/NSC](#)
Cc: [Jon Hickey](#); [Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Fwd: PPE needs
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2020 11:59:06 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT DELIBERATIVE Food Supply Chain PPE Asks_20.04.11.xlsx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative
[DRAFT DELIBERATIVE PPE and sanitation needs collated list 4.1 \(002\).xlsx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative

Draft, Deliberative, Pre-decisional

Marc and Olivia-

See below in response to Marc's query to me yesterday. Happy to talk through it more.

-Joby

Attached is a sheet that captures PPE needs that have been shared with the USDA **over the last week** (TITLED: DRAFT DELIBERATIVE Food Supply Chain PPE Asks_20.11.04). This is a collection of data as it has come into us (i.e. it is not standardized across companies or further vetted by USDA). The first three tabs are the meat industry companies who identified PPE needs on Tuesday's call with the VP and Secretary Perdue. OVP shared the contact information for the companies with the Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force for action; therefore, USDA does not have additional information regarding their specific needs.

Additionally, USDA has previously shared the second attachment with numerous channels at FEMA and the Supply Chain Stabilization task force (TITLED: DRAFT DELIBERATIVE PPE and sanitation needs collated 4.1). This is the summary result of a USDA data call to build out FEMA/Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force understanding of food supply chain PPE needs. This data was collected and collated as of 4.1.20, and USDA cannot confirm if the identified needs have been met through market channels or if companies are still in need of the identified goods. This sheet identifies needs by food supply chain sector, but, as needed, USDA can provide company names and contact information for data call respondents.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Troye, Olivia EOP/NSC](#); [Jon Hickey](#)
Subject: Chat
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 9:18:43 PM

Can we talk tomorrow? Want to update you on some developments from the meat sector.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Young, Stewart B. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Fwd: Local Farmer Serving Farmers Markets
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 4:36:16 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2020 14:34
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Local Farmer Serving Farmers Markets

Afternoon Joby,

Below is a table with 10 farms close to Washington, DC. Additionally below is a link to a site that is set up specifically to help farmers sell their products at this time when their other markets are falling through. <https://www.futureharvestcasa.org/resources/find-farmer-or-market-map>

Food hubs are also hard hit, as they tend to sell mostly to restaurants, schools, and universities. Here is a listing of those, that can be searched by distance from a certain zip code. AMS recommends 200 miles from anywhere in DC for a good range. The caveat is that it is a voluntary directory and all info is entered and updated by the hubs themselves. In short, not all the entries are up to date. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/foodhubs>

Ryan Pierce Fresh Impact Farms 5165 Lee Highway, Ste B Arlington, VA Leafy greens and herbs freshimpactfarms.com/shop (b) (6) ryan@freshimpactfarms.com	Kayla Agonoy ECO City Farms Office- 6010 Taylor road Riverdale 20737 Edmonston, MD Vegetables, Fruit www.ecocityfarms.org 3012881125 info@ecocityfarms.org	Nick Maravell Nick's Organic Farm 8565 Horseshoe Lane, Potomac MD 20854 AND 2733 Buckeystown Pike, Adamstown MD 21710 Meats, Eggs, Value-added (please include description in "other"), Grinding corn, cornmeal, popcorn, poultry feed, hay, straw www.nicksorganicfarm.com 301-983-2167 nicksorganicfarm@comcast.net
Gail Taylor	Carrie Vaughn	Stephanie Rohrer-Scuderi

Deep Roots Farm/ Three Part Harmony Farm co-op Brandywine, MD Vegetables, Eggs, Honey, Fresh Cut Flowers, Fruit deeprootsfarm.us gail@threepartharmonyfarm.com	Claggett Farm 11904 Old Marlboro Pike Upper Marlboro, MD Vegetables, Meats www.claggettfarm.org organically certified vegetables, grassfed beef and lamb 301-627-4662 claggettfarm@cbf.org	Fox Hollow Farm 21808 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882 Lamb, Poultry, Goat, Turkey foxhollowfarm.org 301-330-0165 stephanie@foxhollowfarm.org
Cindy Beuchert Zekiah Farms3, LLC Waldorf, MD Beef, Pork, Lamb, Poultry, Eggs www.zekiahfarms3.com 240-216-4065 info@zekiahfarms.com	Abbey 4P Foods Warrenton, VA Vegetables, Meats, Eggs, Dairy, Honey, Fruit, Ready- try4pfoods.com/at-home Abbey@4pfoods.com	Kim Duty True Ewe Farm 727 Zachary Taylor Highway, Flint Hill, VA 22627 Lamb, Dairy 540-675-3387
Alan Zuschlag Touchstone Farm 140 Touchstone Lane, Amissville, VA 20106 Lamb http://touchstonefarm.org (b) (6) alan@touchstonefarm.org		

Lorren

**Lorren E. S. Walker**

Chief of Staff
 Marketing & Regulatory Programs
 United States Department of Agriculture
 228-W Whitten Building

Office: 202-720-6960
 Cell: 202-819-6300
 Email: lorren.walker@usda.gov

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Young, Stewart B. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Draft
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 4:29:01 PM

Draft

b(5) DPP

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: SP3.P53 - OSEC, Washington, DC
 To: Scavino, Dan J. EOP/WHO; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
 Cc: Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO; Hicks, Hope C. EOP/WHO; Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO
 Subject: Re: POTUS FARMERS TWEET @SecretarySonny>>>>
 Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:28:22 PM

Thanks Dan. We're retweeting. Good message.
 -SP

From: Scavino, Dan J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
 Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:51 PM

To: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC
 Cc: SP3.P53 - OSEC, Washington, DC; SP3.P53 - OSEC, Washington, DC; Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO; Hicks, Hope C. EOP/WHO; Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO
 Subject: POTUS FARMERS TWEET @SecretarySonny>>>>



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 5m ✓

I have directed @SecretarySonny to expedite help to our farmers, especially to the smaller farmers who are hurting right now. I expect Secretary Purdue to use all of the funds and authorities at his disposal to make sure that our food supply is stable, strong, and safe....

634 1,989 7,584



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 5m ✓

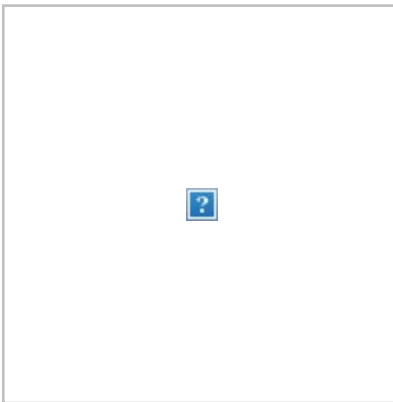
....We will always be there for our Great Farmers, Cattlemen, Ranchers, and Producers!

361 1,099 5,046

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [McCormack, Brian](#)
Subject: Fwd: Instant Update: Trump: Money going to farmers 'in the pretty near future'
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:19:52 PM

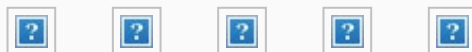
Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Agri-Pulse Instant Update <sara@agri-pulse.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:14:12 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Instant Update: Trump: Money going to farmers 'in the pretty near future'



[Trump: Money going to farmers 'in the pretty near future'](#)

President Donald Trump says the federal government will distribute funds to producers impacted by coronavirus-related market disruptions in the "pretty near future."



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From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [McCormack, Brian](#); [Brooke, Francis J. Jr. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: Draft
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:25:42 PM

Draft

I have directed @SecretarySonny to expedite help to our farmers, especially to the smaller farmers who are in dire straits right now. I expect him to use all the funds and authorities at his disposal to make sure that our food supply is stable and safe. We are working very hard to make sure our food supply chain is sound and plentiful, but we all know that begins with our farmers, cattlemen, ranchers and producers.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Jon Hickey](#)
Subject: Fwd: Trump Administration Exploring Coronavirus Testing for U.S. Food Plant Workers
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:48:27 PM

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:41:23 P
To: SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sp3@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC <alec.varsamis@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>
Subject: Trump Administration Exploring Coronavirus Testing for U.S. Food Plant Workers

Trump Administration Exploring Coronavirus Testing for U.S. Food Plant Workers

The federal Covid-19 task force headed by Vice President Mike Pence this week discussed the prospect with meatpackers and food producers, according to people involved in the talks

The Wall Street Journal
 Jacob Bunge
 4.9.20

The Trump administration is weighing a plan to provide coronavirus tests and other solutions to U.S. food-processing plants, as a way to soothe [workers' fears](#) and keep the country's food system functioning through [the pandemic](#).

The federal Covid-19 task force headed by Vice President Mike Pence this week discussed the prospect with meatpackers and food producers, according to people involved in the talks. The task force is looking to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work out details of what such a plan could look like, at the agency's discretion, an administration official said.

A USDA spokeswoman had no comment on details of the potential plan. But a Trump administration official confirmed the talks.

"They are working on a solution with the plants that not only makes the plants happy but the workers comfortable to come in," the official said. Asked if tests are part of the considerations, the official said, "100%."

Food producers are struggling as a rising number of processing-plant employees contract the coronavirus, and more stay home rather than risk catching it in the close quarters that are typical in plants. Over the past week meat processors JBS USA Holdings Inc., [Tyson Foods](#) Inc., Cargill Inc. and Smithfield Foods [temporarily closed plants](#) in Pennsylvania, Iowa and South Dakota after employees

came down with Covid-19 or displayed symptoms. Other plants have slowed processing operations.

Those shutdowns and slowdowns are seeding fears of a broader [disruption hitting the U.S. food industry](#), after shoppers in recent weeks cleared out staples from supermarkets in anticipation of weeks or months of eating at home. Domestic supplies of meat and other food commodities [have been high](#) heading into the pandemic.

The U.S. government has called on major food processors to continue operating. Mr. Pence this week spoke to executives of U.S. meat and grain companies including Tyson and [Hormel Foods Corp.](#), he said at a briefing Tuesday.

Mr. Pence said in the briefing that food-industry workers are vital as the U.S. navigates the pandemic: “We need you to continue, as a part of what we call our critical infrastructure, to show up and do your job and know that we’re going to continue to work tirelessly in working with all of your companies to make sure that that workplace is safe.”

Being able to quickly test employees for the coronavirus, such as with [Abbott Laboratories’ new 15-minute test](#) debuted last week, would help identify positive cases and assure other workers’ safety, a meat industry official said.

Dozens of meat-plant workers across the country have been confirmed to have contracted Covid-19, including two dozen employees of a Tyson pork plant in Iowa, the company has said, and more than 80 workers at a Smithfield Foods pork plant in Sioux Falls, S.D., according to state health officials.

Kim Cordova, president of a United Food and Commercial Workers union representing workers at a JBS beef plant in Greeley, Colo., estimated around 50 cases among plant employees there. One worker died this week after being hospitalized due to the virus, she said. A spokesman for JBS, which has increased some safety and sanitation practices, had no immediate comment.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which represents meatpacking workers, this week said that two Tyson employees at a Georgia plant had died after contracting the coronavirus. A Tyson spokesman said the company is working to keep its employees safe, separating processing-line workers with barriers, offering masks and installing infrared temperature scanners.

Smithfield on Thursday said it would close its Sioux Falls plant for three days for extra cleaning, but Chief Executive Kenneth Sullivan said in a statement that the company, the largest U.S. pork processor, needed to keep running its farms and plants. “People need to eat,” he said.

To keep workers coming in, some food processors have [temporarily boosted pay](#), while staggering shift start times and breaks so that large numbers of employees aren’t gathering close together. Some plants have handed out masks, and erected barriers between each worker’s spot on processing lines.

Some workers have walked off the job and called on companies to do more or shut down plants temporarily to reduce the risk to workers.

As agricultural labor concerns mount, the State Department last month [eased requirements](#) on seasonal foreign-worker visas, after the agriculture industry warned that harvests could be disrupted if coronavirus-related curbs on immigration reduced the number of available workers.

###



Meghan Rodgers

Acting Communications Director

United States Department of Agriculture

Office: (202) 720-5555

Cell: (202) 515-6850

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Bennett, Elizabeth T. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: FW: COVID Farmers Assistance Package
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:24:00 PM
Attachments: [Families First Coronavirus Response Act.docx](#)

Deliberative, predecisional, draft



Joby Young

Chief of Staff
 United States Department of Agriculture

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:24 PM
To: McCormack, Brian V. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Lucas, Adrienne E. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Wiggins, Jeremy G. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Brooke, Francis J. EOP/OVP <(b) (6)>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Farmers Assistance Package

Kristi J. Boswell

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
 United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202.720.9990
 Cell: 202.281.5695

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:14 PM
To: McCormack, Brian V. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Lucas, Adrienne E. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Wiggins, Jeremy G. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rob Johansson <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: COVID Farmers Assistance Package

My apologies – updated Adrienne’s email.

Kristi J. Boswell

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: 202.281.5695

From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:06 PM

To: McCormack, Brian V. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>; Chulapakorn, Adrienne <adrienne.chulapakorn@uscis.dhs.gov>; Wiggins, Jeremy G. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>

Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rob Johansson <robert.johansson@usda.gov> <robert.johansson@usda.gov>

Subject: COVID Farmers Assistance Package

Hey, Joby asked that I send over the attached slide deck for the 4:15 call. Rob Johansson will also be joining so he can walk through details and answer specific questions you may have.

As an overview, I would add the following little blurb.

b(5) DPP

Kristi J. Boswell

Senior Advisor to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: 202.281.5695

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act”.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1101. (a) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—During fiscal year 2020, in any case in which a school is closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session, each household containing at least 1 member who is an eligible child attending the school shall be eligible to receive assistance pursuant to a state agency plan approved under subsection (b).

(b) ASSISTANCE.—To carry out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may approve State agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for households with eligible children. Plans approved by the Secretary shall provide for supplemental allotments to households receiving benefits under such Act, and issuances to households not already receiving benefits. Such level of benefits shall be determined by the Secretary in an amount not less than the value of meals at the free rate over the course of 5 school days for each eligible child in the household.

(c) MINIMUM CLOSURE REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall not provide assistance under this section in the case of a school that is closed for less than 5 consecutive days.

(d) USE OF EBT SYSTEM.—A State agency may provide assistance under this section through the EBT card system established under section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016).

(e) RELEASE OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize State

educational agencies and school food authorities administering a school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) to release to appropriate officials administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program such information as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(f) **WAIVERS.**—To facilitate implementation of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may approve waivers of the limits on certification periods otherwise applicable under section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(f)), reporting requirements otherwise applicable under section 6(c) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2015(c)), and other administrative requirements otherwise applicable to State agencies under such Act.

(g) **AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES.**—During fiscal year 2020, the Secretary of Agriculture may purchase commodities for emergency distribution in any area of the United States during a public health emergency designation.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible child” means a child (as defined in section 12(d) or served under section 11(a)(1) of the Richard

B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d), 1759(a)(1)) who, if not for the closure of the school attended by the child during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID–19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced price school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) at the school.

(2) The term “public health emergency designation” means the declaration of a public health emergency, based on an outbreak of SARS–CoV–2 or another coronavirus with pandemic potential, by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

(3) The term “school” has the meaning given the term in section 12(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)).

(i) **FUNDING.**—There are hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture such amounts as are necessary to carry out this section: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [McCormack, Brian](#)
Cc: [Lindsay, Sally - OSEC Washington, DC](#); [Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Program proposal
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:10:30 PM

Brian-

We just got off the phone with SP and are in a place where we can walk you through the program proposal. I've copied sally to propose some times. Do you and team have some time this afternoon?

-Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Kristan K. Nevins](#) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Industry Specific videos
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:59:45 AM

Original: <https://twitter.com/SecretarySonny/status/1239972372993597441?s=20>

Original with Spanish subtitles: <https://youtu.be/AOGuTRViNCw>

Industry specific below-

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 14:30
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Willits, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Industry Specific videos

Hey guys –

The industry specific videos are all finished and ready to go, see below. Do you want to send the appropriate ones to everyone who asked for them and we can keep the others for when the requests trickle in?

Equipment - <https://youtu.be/D7DQGtmrUeQ>
 Seedfert - <https://youtu.be/YN8IFsJ86AE>
 Farmers - <https://youtu.be/0QZs5Br5SMA>
 Ethanol - <https://youtu.be/OtoD7efrwAQ>
 Packers/Processors - <https://youtu.be/WAQVNWmL78E>
 Grocers - <https://youtu.be/w9QrkJBIL9c>
 Truckers - <https://youtu.be/qpbzazrON7w>

Let me know what you think is the best way to go about doing this, I am very open to ideas.

Meghan



Meghan Rodgers
 Deputy Communications Director
 United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: (202) 720-5555

Cell: (202) 515-6850

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rader, John N. EOP/NSC](#)
Subject: Fwd: Offer of Assistance Logistics Platform
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:03:26 AM

Thanks for your help.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beaal@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 9:10:12 AM
To: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Offer of Assistance Logistics Platform

I have pushed through our contacts at FEMA. I have a private sector offer like this in my inbox I haven't done anything with because I don't know who/where is tracking stuff like this there.

Actually, as I typed, I thought of something. Joby, do you want to send to John Rader?

From: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:12 AM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beaal@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Offer of Assistance Logistics Platform

FYI-JB hunt info, if helpful.

From: Greer Woodruff <Greer.Woodruff@jbhunt.com>
Date: April 4, 2020 at 11:09:25 PM CDT
To: "donna.o'berry@dot.gov" <donna.o'berry@dot.gov>, "wiley.deck@dot.gov" <wiley.deck@dot.gov>, "matthew.behnke@fema.dhs.gov" <matthew.behnke@fema.dhs.gov>
Cc: "todd.inman@dot.gov" <todd.inman@dot.gov>, "Brown, Joe (Boozman)" <Joe_Brown@boozman.senate.gov>, Craig Harper <Craig.Harper@jbhunt.com>, Lane Kidd <lanekidd@truckingalliance.org>, Shelley Simpson <Shelley.Simpson@jbhunt.com>
Subject: Offer of Assistance Logistics Platform

As requested by Jaemma L. David (DHS) Logistics Specialist COVID-19 Support, J.B. Hunt has submitted a request to provide services in support of COVID-19 relief to DHSIndustryLiaison@hq.dhs.gov

We are hopeful that given the national emergency and the fact that J.B. Hunt is already an approved FEMA Transportation Service Provider that consideration of our comprehensive proposal could be expedited. We are ready to offer a demonstration of our capabilities at any time. Please advise us of next steps.

J.B. Hunt Transport Inc. is a current FEMA approved Transportation Service Provider and has provided transportation services previously to FEMA through the General Services Administration Freight Management Program. J.B. Hunt is an active member of FEMA's National Business Emergency Operations Center.

J.B. Hunt's 360 digital freight platform is the largest in North America. Existing motor carriers used by FEMA can be provided access to J.B. Hunt's platform at no cost to them and be operationalized within 48 hours, giving Government Officials real time tracking of medical supplies and essential goods.

J.B. Hunt's digital freight matching platform provides logistics service capabilities that incorporates people, processes, and technology to provide best in class solutions and/or transportation freight management to support the ongoing supply chain needs related to the COVID-19 response efforts. Additionally, Trucking Alliance carriers: J.B. Hunt Transport, Maverick USA, Knight-Swift Transportation, Dupre Logistics, KLLM Transport Services, Cargo Transporters, May Trucking Company, US Xpress and Boyle Transportation have committed to augment capacity using this platform providing an integrated, multimodal approach, to provide capacity-oriented solutions centered on delivering value and industry-leading service.

A comprehensive approach would include utilization of the award winning 360 platform by J.B. Hunt which incorporates technologies and services provided through our carrier network. The 360 platform is a mobile and web-based set of applications that will connect the Government and transportation service providers. The 360 platform provides an integrated set of tools for the Government and transportation service providers through an easy-to-use interface; interactive dashboard to monitor transportation in real time; notifications and sorting capabilities for timely and relevant information retrieval of current and future work details; quick access to critical information for faster and more accurate decision making; etc.

This solution would offer:

- Real-time shipment status & visibility, both mobile and web-based access
- Event and/or frequency driven shipment notifications
- International and domestic shipments
- Access to the full capacity offered through the Trucking Alliance, over 75,000 trucks
- Access to J.B. Hunt's network of over one million trucks
- Online shipment booking
- Spot quotes for multiple modes based on real-time capacity & demand.

It is J.B. Hunt's goal to create the most efficient transportation network in North

America, utilizing technology, people, and process. **J.B. Hunt would readily participate in any effort to aid the logistics portion of this unprecedented disaster response.**

Included as an attachment is J.B. Hunt's response to the RFI for the FEMA Commercial Logistics Augmentation Support that was formulated in November 2019 to illustrate some of the capabilities of the J.B. Hunt 360 platform. Listed below are some of the individuals that J.B. Hunt has been involved with.

Jeff Dorko, FEMA Assistant Administrator for Logistics within the Office of Response and Recovery.

Jerry Thomas, FEMA National. Jerry has been J.B. Hunt's primary contact at FEMA.

Mike Frego, Transportation Planner, FEMA National
Bond Luddeke, Distribution Manager, FEMA Region 4

Again we look forward to the opportunity to support the unique transportation and logistics needs during this national emergency and are confident our 360 platform is best in class and can meet the immediate needs of government.

Greer Woodruff | Sr. Vice President Corporate Safety, Security, and Driver Personnel
(b) (6) (O)
J.B Hunt Transport, Inc.

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP](#)
Cc: [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Call request
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 3:16:36 PM

Marc,

Sec. Perdue would like to speak with the VP regarding food supply chain issues if you all are able to spare five minutes. Happy to connect the scheduling teams at your direction.

-Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Andrew J. Olmem](#); [Tim Pataki](#) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: CARES ACT EIDL and PPP 130 Version
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 7:08:54 PM
Attachments: [CARES ACT EIDL and PPP 130 Version.docx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative (4 pages)

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Vaden, Stephen - OGC, Washington, DC <stephen.vaden@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 5:43:08 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: CARES ACT EIDL and PPP 130 Version

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From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Andrew J. Olmem](#); [Tim Pataki](#) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: EIDL Ltr. // Sen Small Biz update
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 7:06:14 PM
Attachments: [Delgado NY Ltr to SBA on EIDL farmers.pdf](#)

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 17:38
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: EIDL Ltr. // Sen Small Biz update

Hi! Attached is the letter that come of the Dear Colleague I shared over yesterday. 86 members, mostly House Majority members, signed on.

As another close-hold flag, Chairman Rubio's staff on Senate SmallBiz Committee is getting a lot of incoming from the Ag community on EIDL. Majority staff are preparing an argument for including farmers and ranchers in EIDL under the CARES Act expansion – similar to OGC's argument – and will try to get their other three corners to join a letter to SBA expressing the Committee's intent to include these folks under EIDL.

I still think getting PPP right is the bigger prize for our folks, but wanted to flag this on EIDL.

Thanks!

Evan B. Lee

Chief of Staff
 Office of Congressional Relations



United States Department of
 Agriculture
 Cell: 202-809-7331

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Carranza:

We write to urge your immediate attention and swift action on an issue that threatens to discriminate against rural areas and the farmers that are the backbone of rural economies.

On March 27, the House passed the CARES Act (PL 116-136) to respond to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and the bill was then signed into law. Because the public health measures necessary to slow the spread of coronavirus are taking a particular toll on small businesses, including our nation's farmers, the CARES Act provides a broad range of assistance to help tide over small businesses that might otherwise not be able to survive the impact.

Among those provisions, Section 1110 of the CARES Act creates an emergency economic injury grant program. In recognition that the coronavirus is affecting many types of entities that may not traditionally be considered small businesses, this provision expands the eligibility criteria in the underlying economic injury disaster loan program.

As a result, we were shocked and disappointed that, contrary to Congressional intent, the Small Business Administration singles out farmers and agricultural businesses as ineligible for this program. We ask that you share the Small Business Administration (SBA)'s rationale for excluding farms from this program, including any statutory limitations on aiding farmers.

We urge you to ensure that agricultural businesses and farmers are eligible to access the EIDL program, and the other small business provisions in the CARES act. Farmers need our help to make it through this pandemic while continuing to feed American families, fuel our economy, and sustain other resources which are essential to our survival. Now more than ever we must provide

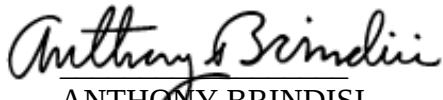
our farmers and rural communities with federal assistance needed to combat this pandemic and not turn our backs on these communities.

Thank you, Administrator Carranza, for your attention to this critical matter, and for SBA's work to address the economic impacts of this pandemic. SBA's swift action on this issue will help alleviate the concerns of our nation's family farms, which are vital to our country and our communities.

Sincerely,



ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



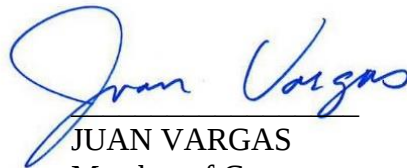
ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



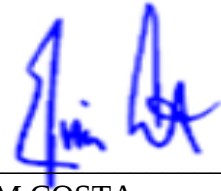
JOSH HARDER
Member of Congress



ANGIE CRAIG
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



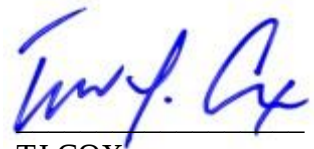
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MIKE THOMPSON
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JARED HUFFMAN
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TJ COX
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JOSEPH D. MORELLE
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SALUD CARBAJAL
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DAVID SCOTT
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BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



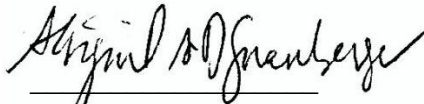
CHELLIE PINGREE
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DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER
Member of Congress



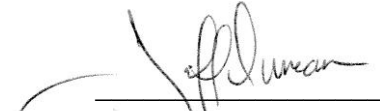
MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress



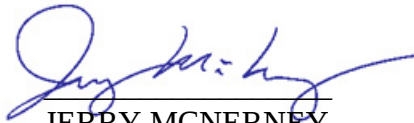
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Member of Congress



JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



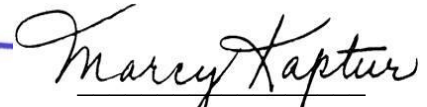
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LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress



ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress



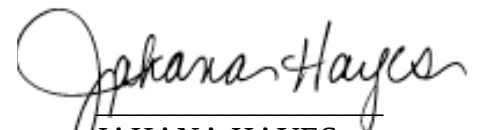
MARCY KAPTUR
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JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



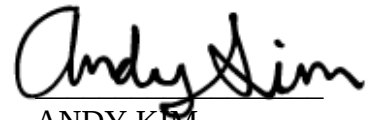
CHRIS PAPPAS
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK"
JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



ANDY KIM
Member of Congress



ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress



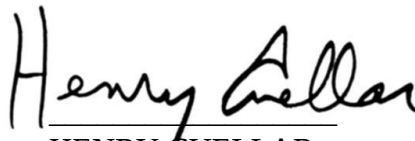
GREG STANTON
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PETER WELCH
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ED CASE
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HENRY CUELLAR
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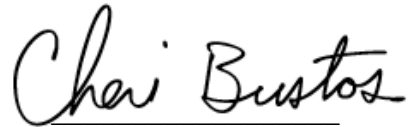
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RICK LARSEN
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JOHN KATKO
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CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress



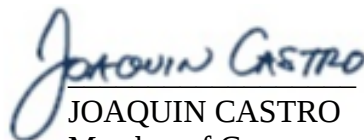
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RO KHANNA
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JOAQUIN CASTRO
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KENDRA S. HORN
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



CHRISSEY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress



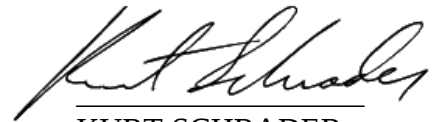
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TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress



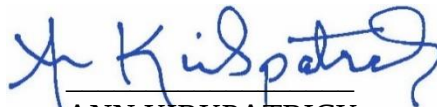
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JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



TIM RYAN
Member of Congress



ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress



PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress



PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress



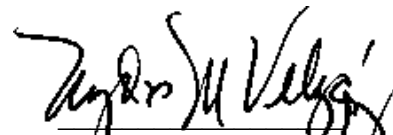
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Member of Congress



JENNIFER WEXTON
Member of Congress



CINDY AXNE
Member of Congress



NYDIA VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress



TROY BALDERSON
Member of Congress



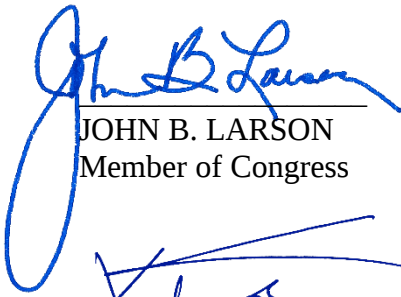
JULIA BROWNLEY
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H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress



J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress



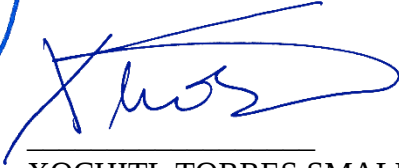
JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



MIKE GALLAGHER
Member of Congress



TOM REED
Member of Congress



XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
Member of Congress



A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress



DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress



Denver Riggleman
Member of Congress

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Kristan K. Nevins](#) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Plant Workplaces Emerge as Coronavirus Battlegrounds
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 1:39:11 PM

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 13:36
To: SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Varsamis, Alec - OC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: U.S. Plant Workplaces Emerge as Coronavirus Battlegrounds

U.S. Plant Workplaces Emerge as Coronavirus Battlegrounds

Workers walk off, seek health protections; companies try balancing act

WSJ
 4.2.20

Tensions are breaking out between employers and workers across the U.S. as some [companies push to keep producing](#) during the [coronavirus pandemic](#) and some employees push back over health concerns and other issues.

In recent days, plant workers have walked off the job at companies ranging from poultry producer Perdue Farms Inc. to soda maker Refresco B.V. At [Tyson Foods](#) Inc., workers petitioned for more paid sick leave. Some want more protective equipment. Others have complained to regulators about unsafe conditions.

Warnings about social distancing and exposure have also surfaced new concerns, especially when doing business in close quarters seems to conflict with guidance from health officials about physical distancing.

“The next phase of concern is safety in the workplace,” said William Schaffner, an infectious-disease specialist at Vanderbilt University.

Protections like physical spacing of employees are particularly important, said Mr. Schaffner, because the virus spreads even from those who aren’t symptomatic. Identifying sick workers by checking employees’ fever, he said, “is helpful but not the complete story.”

Meatpacking, which is seeing [increased demand](#) as Americans batten down at home, is one industry

where workers have become concerned about being in proximity while cutting carcasses and trimming meat. Some companies have spaced workers farther apart and staggered shift starts and break times. Tyson and others have begun offering employees masks and gloves, and taking their temperatures.

Earlier this week, the League of United Latin American Citizens, a Hispanic civil-rights group, asked the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration for broader guidance on safety equipment, paid sick leave and regular health checks for plant employees. A significant share of meatpacking-plant employees are immigrants.

Last week, about two dozen workers at a Perdue Farms chicken plant walked off their jobs in Georgia, complaining that the company wasn't doing enough to prevent coronavirus infection, and not paying them enough. Perdue said that after speaking with management, most of the employees returned to work. The Perdue plant isn't represented by a union.

Perdue said it had already boosted plant sanitation and extended hours for its on-site wellness centers, which are free for employees and their families. It has also temporarily increased pay for hourly plant workers, and waived a waiting period to get short-term disability benefits, a spokeswoman said. The company is also offering free chicken to employees.

It is unusual for nonunion employees to walk off jobs, particularly immigrant workers in meatpacking and other industries. "I was floored," said Deborah Berkowitz, a former U.S. OSHA official and poultry-worker safety advocate. "The workers have very few safety rights if they refuse to work."

In Arkansas, a group called Venceremos, which was founded last year and works with poultry workers, has called on Tyson to expand pay for workers who have to stay home sick, saying the company's existing policy doesn't go far enough. In an interview, a worker complained about jam-packed factory-production lines, not enough hand sanitizer and crowded lines for worker bathrooms.

A Tyson spokesman said the company is committed to hearing out employees' concerns, and maintains an anonymous ethics helpline. He said problems with hand sanitizer and bathroom lines haven't been raised.

'The next phase of concern is safety in the workplace.'

— William Schaffner, an infectious-disease specialist at Vanderbilt University

Tyson, which produces one in 5 pounds of all beef, pork and chicken produced daily in the U.S., said it has seen a small number of employees test positive for Covid-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus. The company has directed employees who might have had contact with infected colleagues to self-quarantine, has notified other workers of positive cases and is checking workers' temperatures before shifts, the spokesman said. In some plant break rooms, colored dots have been placed on chairs to help Tyson staff sit the recommended distance apart.

Experts said they don't worry about transmitting the virus through food, but they say workplace

conditions risk creating additional coronavirus hot spots and could potentially slow food and other production.

In Wharton, N.J., workers at a Refresco bottling plant walked out on March 21 after a manager berated an employee who was worried about the coronavirus and reported himself as feeling ill, a worker at the plant said. On March 27, the workers tried to deliver a letter addressing their concerns to the human resources department, but it wasn't accepted and they had to email it to upper management. Refresco, a publicly traded beverage company based in the Netherlands, is one of the largest independent bottlers for retailers.

Refresco spokeswoman Antonella Sacconi said the company is taking all necessary precautions and is following and in some cases exceeding government guidelines by providing employees with face masks and other protective equipment. She said the company has issued a \$1 an hour "crisis bonus" for all its North American employees.

"All concerns raised by employees have been addressed and resolved," Ms. Sacconi said. "Refresco will continue to do everything we can to keep all employees safe and healthy."

Some governors have issued guidelines directing businesses with essential workers to comply with social-distancing measures when possible. About half the states have their own workplace-safety enforcement; the rest relies on the federal government's OSHA.

In Nevada, which runs its own workplace-safety enforcement agency, administrator Jess Lankford recently warned construction companies in a letter that the agency would conduct random inspections to ensure they are complying with a governor's mandate for social distancing.

"It is visibly obvious that employees are still being directed/allowed to work in close proximity (less than 6 feet of separation) to other staff," Mr. Lankford wrote.

A spokeswoman for Nevada's Department of Business and Industry said the safety agency is investigating and might issue citations for violations of published coronavirus safety guidelines.

Federal OSHA has taken a largely hands-off approach to coronavirus safety enforcement, its communications indicate. It recently released a guidance outlining steps that employers could take to protect a workplace from an outbreak, including increasing ventilation and installing physical barriers. But it stressed it was just advisory. OSHA standards don't specifically cover infectious-disease protections, although there are basic requirements for bathrooms, sanitation and some protective gear.

Some former OSHA officials said the agency could be doing more, including requiring that companies comply with a general standard to provide a safe workplace.

"If OSHA is playing any role in the response, it is so low key as to be invisible," said David Michaels, who ran the agency under the Obama administration.

OSHA didn't respond to requests for comment.

Some calls for OSHA action have gone unheeded. Tim Bell, a worker advocate with Chicago Workers' Collaborative, complained about worker-safety conditions in the area to an Illinois OSHA official. OSHA Area Director Angie Loftus responded that the regulatory agency couldn't do anything to enforce the best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In an email to Mr. Bell, Ms. Loftus said she had been receiving complaints every day for weeks about employers failing to follow the guidelines. "These recommended measures are not enforceable by OSHA since they are guidance and not OSHA law," according to the email Mr. Bell said he received from Ms. Loftus that was reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

Ms. Loftus and OSHA didn't respond to requests for comment about the email.

In a Voyant Beauty factory in Countryside, Ill., several workers employed by third-party staffing agencies said they were alarmed by the lack of protective gear and the close quarters on the company's production lines and in a dining hall. The company makes disinfectants such as hand soaps and is considered essential.

The workers said that they used the same touch-screen devices to clock in every day, and that these weren't sanitized despite being touched by hundreds of workers daily.

"People are piled up on top of each other working, and there is no protection," said Eduardo Antunez, a worker in the Voyant Beauty factory. "I use my gloves and I change them often, but this factory hasn't taken any precautionary steps."

Voyant didn't comment. There have been no known infections at the factory, according to workers there.

Meantime, the health implications of outbreaks from plants remain the broader worry, some worker-safety advocates said. Some workplaces house hundreds and sometimes thousands of employees in close quarters.

"That's a major risk for the people working in the plants themselves, for the continued food production, and for public health," said Darcy Tromanhauser of Nebraska Appleseed, a nonprofit that works with meat-plant workers.

###



Meghan Rodgers
Deputy Communications Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: (202) 720-5555
Cell: (202) 515-6850

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Kristan K. Nevins](#) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Talking points
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 1:38:50 PM

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:33
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Talking points

Let me know if you have any edits – if not, I'll send to VP comms.

Thank you to the food supply chain workers

- The entire country is counting on the patriotic work being done by those in our food supply chain.
- These dedicated workers include farmers and ranchers, packers and producers, truckers and grocery store workers.
- The work they are doing is critical to ensuring America's food supply remains safe and secure.
- America depends on these folks on the front lines if we are going to have the food we need to feed our families, they are the ones who are making that happen.
- As an entire nation, we are truly thankful for the work they are doing and recognize that they are true patriotic heroes during this pandemic.



Meghan Rodgers
 Deputy Communications Director
 United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: (202) 720-5555
 Cell: (202) 515-6850

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Rader, John N. EOP/NSC](#)
Cc: [Mary Dee Beal](#)
Subject: FW: PPE and sanitation needs collated list 4.1.xlsx
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:50:00 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT, DELIBERATIVE PPE and sanitation needs collated list 4.1.xlsx](#) (b)(5)-Deliberative

Deliberative, predecisional

John,

Please find attached an initial data set produced from the voluntary submissions from our food supply chain partners responding to our query for their PPE sanitation/cleaning supply needs over the next 30 days.

This list is what was passed along to us as of April 1, 2020. We'll be providing this to you as well as the food supply chain taskforce stood up at FEMA with George Bamford in lead.

We have tried to organize the information consistent with the CISA guidance for continuity as well as reflective by state. Please let me know if we can reflect this in a more helpful or useful way. We are standing by to help.

I'll also note that our team is working to make sure that food supply chain entities are aware of the standing FEMA process for submitting urgent needs. Mary Dee can chime in if I have failed to note anything essential.

-Joby



Joby Young

Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Tim Pataki](#) (b) (6)
Cc: [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Fwd: FLOTUS Meal Packing Ideas
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2020 6:11:01 PM

I talked through these options with the team since they sent. Concur with their preference for 1 and 2 as I mentioned on the phone but we could make different options work.

Please let me know your feedback and we can get more info or start moving.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 3:42:47 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>
Subject: FLOTUS Meal Packing Ideas

Joby,

Anne and I discussed. Here are a few options we think we could explore for FLOTUS:

b(5) DPP

b(5) DPP

b(5) DPP

. Over the weekend, USDA approved waivers for 31 states for area eligibility, which means sites will be able to serve any child and be located almost anywhere. We could see a more than doubling of the school lunch/summer option feeding over the next few weeks to more than \$5B a month in food.

Campbell

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lin, Merry S. EOP/WHO](#)
Subject: FW: Some Good News
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:22:00 PM

FYI- Go team.

Joby Young



Chief of Staff
 United States Department of Agriculture

From: Herzfeld, Shannon <Shannon.Herzfeld@adm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:04 PM
To: CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC <SLC1@usda.gov>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Some Good News

Hello Steve and Joby,

In light of the hand sanitizer shortage, we at ADM are adding to our processing lines in Decatur IL, with the capability to produce 6500 gallons per day of USP grade alcohol which can be used immediately by hand sanitizer makers. The remarkable point is that we filed for a permit yesterday with the Dept. of Treasury (production requires a permit from TTB - (formerly ATF)) and they turned around approval in under 24 hours.

These trucks will be rolling very soon.

(FWIW I am told a back of the envelope estimate is that a truckload of USP grade alcohol - approx. 6500 gallons - supports the production of 170,000 bottles of hand sanitizer. This is a great use of our midwest grown corn.)

Kudos to your Treasury colleagues and to Secty Perdue's tireless advocacy. American agriculture is part of the solution.

Regards,

Shannon Herzfeld

Confidentiality Notice:

This message may contain confidential or privileged information, or information that is otherwise exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you should promptly delete it and should not disclose, copy or distribute it to others.

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: (b) (6) Marc T. Short
Cc: [Kristan K. Nevins](#) (b) (6)
Bcc: [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC](#); [Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Friday
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 1:56:56 PM

Sec. Perdue will return to DC to join the Friday briefing.

I was told it may also involve H2A announcement.

Thanks,

Joby

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Butterfield, Nicholas W. EOP/WHO](#)
Cc: [Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: h2A connect
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:38:00 PM

Kristi,

Can you connect with Butterfield to give him the download on the H2A situation as well?



Joby Young

Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Davis, May M. EOP/WHO](#); [Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: connecting - H2A
Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:47:00 AM

Kristi,

Connecting you with May. Can you reach out to her to provide the latest on H2A?



Joby Young

Chief of Staff
United States Department of Agriculture

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Kristan K. Nevins \(\(b\) \(6\)\)](#); [Merry S. Lin \(\(b\) \(6\)\)](#)
Cc: [Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Fwd: video link
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:10:17 PM

Hey guys,

This is the clip that we are planning to tweet and put out to food supply chain companies and trade groups to be shared with their workforce.

We'd coordinate this appropriately with our sharing of the DHS guidance that should be dropping any time. Our thought would be that it would be easy to share from the White House channels as you all deem appropriate (or not) without you having to create additional content.

Please take a look and let me know your thoughts. This link is private right now. 2 mins long.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC <michawn.rich@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 3:00:18 PM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTjMAfUmICc&feature=youtu.be>

Michawn Rich
 Communications Director
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202.720.4623

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC](#); [Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC](#); [Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC](#); [Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC](#); [Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC](#); [Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [MacGregor, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC](#); [CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Kaouk, Ted - OCIO](#); [Bonfitto, Jordan P. EOP/WHO](#); [Marklund, Chris - OSEC](#); [Pulz, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Re: Daily COVID-19 Policy Meeting
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:00:51 PM

Keep trying.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC <robert.johansson@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:59:42 PM
To: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC <michelle.colby@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC <allison.beach@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; MacGregor, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>; CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC <SLC1@usda.gov>; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Kaouk, Ted - OCIO <ted.kaouk@usda.gov>; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov>; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC <meghan.rodgers@usda.gov>; Colby, Michelle - OHS, Washington, DC <michelle.colby@usda.gov>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC <lillie.brady@usda.gov>; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC <erica.navarro@usda.gov>; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC <Rebeckah.Adcock@usda.gov>; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC <Shawna.Newsome@usda.gov>; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <campbell.shuford@usda.gov>; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC <jamie.cloveradams@usda.gov>; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC <allison.beach@usda.gov>; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <kristi.boswell@usda.gov>; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lorren.Walker@usda.gov>; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC

<dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC
 <Robert.MacGregor2@usda.gov>; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC
 <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kyle.Liske@usda.gov>; Smith,
 Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC <Ashley.Smith3@usda.gov>; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington,
 DC <jessica.fantinato@usda.gov>; CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC <SLC1@usda.gov>; DeCesaro,
 Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC <Anne.DeCesaro@usda.gov>; Kaouk, Ted - OCIO
 <ted.kaouk@usda.gov>; Bonfitto, Jordan P. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>;
 Marklund, Chris - OSEC <Chris.Marklund@usda.gov>; Pulz, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC
 <Jessica.Pulz@usda.gov>

Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington,
 DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>;
 Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-
 USEC, Washington, DC <Anna.Osterlind@usda.gov>; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC
 <kailee.tkacz@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Rollins,
 Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <blake.rollins@usda.gov>; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC
 <Audra.Weeks@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Daily COVID-19 Policy Meeting

FYI/ Conference line is saying “all circuits are busy”

Rob

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC <MaryDee.Beal@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 5:14 PM

To: Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle -
 OHS, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC;
 Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome, Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford,
 Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC; Beach, Allie - FAS,
 Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC;
 Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor, Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp,
 Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC, Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC,
 Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC; CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC;
 DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kaouk, Ted - OCIO; Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington,
 DC; Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Colby, Michelle -
 OHS, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE, Washington, DC; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington,
 DC; Navarro, Erica - OBPA, Washington, DC; Adcock, Rebeckah - OSEC, Washington, DC; Newsome,
 Shawna - OSEC, Washington, DC; Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie -
 OSEC, Washington, DC; Beach, Allie - FAS, Washington, DC; Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC;
 Walker, Lorren - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC; MacGregor,
 Robert – OSEC, Washington, DC; Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC; Liske, Kyle - OSEC,
 Washington, DC; Smith, Ashley - OSEC, Washington, DC; Fantinato, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC;
 CLS1, SLC1 - OSEC, Washington, DC; DeCesaro, Anne - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kaouk, Ted - OCIO;
 Bonfitto, Jordan P. EOP/WHO; Marklund, Chris - OSEC; Pulz, Jessica - OHS, Washington, DC

Cc: Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC,
 Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC; Osterlind, Anna - OSEC-TFAA-USEC,

Washington, DC; Tkacz, Kailee - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC; Weeks, Audra - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Daily COVID-19 Policy Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:00 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: 104A or call in info below

USDA COVID-19 Policy Coordination Agendas

Wednesday, March 17, 2020

2:30 pm

b(5) DPP

Moving due to changes in Secretary and Deputy Secretary's calendar. Sorry for all the calendar notifications. – Ashley

Please see the call in and room information above. There will be no forwarding function on these

invites. If you believe someone is missing from this invite, please let Mary Dee or me know.

Room: 104A

888-844-9904

Participant Code: (b) (6)

Just let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Ashley

All:

Per the conversation most of you joined (or have been briefed on since) this morning, we are standing up a daily USDA COVID-19 policy meeting to keep track of new and moving policy pieces, similar to the parallel operational work flow.

We intend to support both USDA policy workload + the developing intergovernmental coordination re: Food supply security.

As you have new/developing policy issues or stakeholder concerns/ideas/flags in this space, this will be our internal one-stop-shop to triage.

Please reach out with any questions. Otherwise, I'll talk with you tomorrow and many days to come.

MDB

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Ethan Lane](#); (b) (6) White House Office of Public Liaison
Cc: [Chaffee, Christopher L. EOP/WHO](#); [Russo, Joseph H. EOP/WHO](#); cwoodall@beef.org; [Todd Wilens](#); todd.inman@dot.gov; cth Thornton@CFTC.gov
Subject: Re: Cattle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 5:24:42 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Thanks Ethan. Received.

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Ethan Lane <elane@beef.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 5:04:23 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)> White House Office of Public Liaison
Cc: Chaffee, Christopher L. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Russo, Joseph H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; cwoodall@beef.org <cwoodall@beef.org>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Todd Wilens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>; todd.inman@dot.gov <todd.inman@dot.gov>; cth Thornton@CFTC.gov <cth Thornton@CFTC.gov>
Subject: Cattle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

All,

Please find attached a letter articulating the needs of the U.S. cattle industry as we navigate the current COVID-19 crisis. Our producers throughout the value chain appreciate the steps already taken by this administration and look forward to working with all of you in the coming days.

Should anyone have questions, comments, or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Ethan

Ethan L. Lane
 Vice President
 Government Affairs
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Center for Public Policy
 The Pennsylvania Building
 1275 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 801
 Washington, DC 20004-1701
 (b) (6) | elane@beef.org



From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: ["loren.walker@usda.com"](#); [Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Gregory Doud](#) (b) (6);
[Dykes Michael - FASContact](#)
Cc: [Beal, Mary Dee - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: Re: Food Industry Coordination on COVID-19
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:18:11 PM

Thanks Michael. We'll have follow up to reach out to you as we continue this conversation. We appreciate yours and the others action here. Very helpful. We'll follow up.

-Joby

Joby Young
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Michael Dykes <MDykes@idfa.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 6:45:06 PM
To: 'loren.walker@usda.com' <loren.walker@usda.com>; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC <Greg.Ibach@usda.gov>; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Gregory Doud (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Food Industry Coordination on COVID-19

I have been working with several of the food and beverage industry trade association CEOs to prepare a list of critical services we would need to remain operational as you plan future events to address the coronavirus pandemic. We also are collectively communicating to consumers and influencers that despite some localized shortages that there is plenty of essential food and beverages being produced and distributed to grocery stores. As long as we can continue to produce products and get them to stores, the coronavirus will not result in shortages of essential food and beverages.

We also stand ready to assist in any way possible.

I also want to share with you that we are surveying our members to ask about any potential disruptions in the food supply chain and I will share those results with you in the next day or two.

Thank you for all you do for all of us in the food and ag industry!

Michael

From: [Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
To: [Tim Pataki](#) (b) (6); [Chaffee, Christopher L. EOP/WHO](#)
Cc: [Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC](#)
Subject: POTUS call
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020 5:23:51 PM

Tim/Chris,

We just got a call from John Rader and he informed us that the team there in the White House is proposing a call between POTUS and some grocery store CEOs. He directed us to work with you guys to support this. Can we have a call with you guys to level set and make sure we get you all what you need?

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture