



Jeremy Singer-Vine <jsvine@gmail.com>

2023-OSEC-01942-F FOIA Request Acknowledgement

1 message

Ruppel, Susan - OGC, Washington, DC <Susan.Ruppel@usda.gov>
To: "jsvine@gmail.com" <jsvine@gmail.com>
Cc: USDAFOIA - Office of Information Affairs <USDAFOIA@usda.gov>

Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 7:46 AM

Dear Mr. Singer-Vine:

This email acknowledges receipt of your attached Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Office of Information Affairs, FOIA Division (OIA-FOIA). Your request was received by this office on February 7, 2023.

The OIA-FOIA is under the purview of the General Counsel (GC) and serves as the focal point for USDA's FOIA program. It provides coordination and ensures agency-wide compliance with the FOIA. Additionally, the OIA-FOIA processes requests and appeals on behalf of the Office of the Secretary (OSEC); the Under Secretaries; USDA's staff offices; and the Research, Education and Economics and Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission areas.

The FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i), requires USDA to make a determination in response to a FOIA request within 20 business days from its date of receipt. In unusual circumstances, the Federal agency time limit may be extended by 10 business days as stated in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If your request seeks numerous records that will necessitate a wide-ranging search, including searches with components and possible consultations with components that have a substantial interest in the determination of this request, USDA will invoke a 10 business day extension for determination of your request. You have the option to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Pursuant to USDA FOIA Regulations, Title 7 CFR §1.6(a), the USDA processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt.

Provisions of the FOIA allow USDA to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. For purposes of fee assessment, you have been categorized as a "news media" requester, pursuant to 7 CFR Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 1 Section 2(b)(4)(i). For your review and information, a copy of the USDA FOIA Fee Schedule is attached. In accordance with 7 CFR Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 1, Section 3(b), your fees shall be waived where the amount of the fee is \$25.00 or less.

A search will be conducted for records responsive to your request. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that a FOIA analyst will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned **FOIA Case No. 2023-OSEC-01942-F**. Please refer to this case number in any future correspondence. If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Susan Ruppel at 202-690-5220 or electronically at susan.ruppel@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov. For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and process, please refer to the information available on-line at [Freedom of Information Act Division | USDA](#).

We appreciate the opportunity to assist you.

Sincerely,

Office of Information Affairs

Freedom of Information Act Division



Susan Ruppel

she/her/hers

FOIA Analyst, Attorney-Contractor

Freedom of Information Act Division

Office of Information Affairs

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., SW

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✉ Susan.Ruppel@USDA.gov

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2 attachments



2023-OSEC-01942-F original request.pdf

126K



USDA FOIA Fee Schedule.pdf

59K